

# Regional Arts and Media Program

## Performing Arts Tips

### Monologue Preparation Tips

#### Step 1: Script Work

- Read over the monologue package – find one with a character you like and can relate to
- Figure out to **whom** that character is speaking and **why**
- Figure out the point of your monologue – what is that character trying to say or achieve? What do your character WANT?
- If you choose to do your **own** monologue, it must be about a minute in length, age appropriate, and have content appropriate for a school

#### Step 2: Start Memorizing (but move on from this quickly)

- Read over your monologue on repeat out loud - do that for 15-20 minutes
- Hand-write out your monologue while saying it out loud
- Record yourself, listen to your recording and perform along your record
- Best way to memorize is to **perform it repeatedly** - connect the words with your emotions and actions
- Have a friend or family member follow on script while you perform, giving you lines if you need them

#### Step 3: Work on your Acting Technique for Your Monologue

- Everything you do needs to be planned and rehearsed (gestures, facial expressions, etc.)
- Make sure you make eye contact with the audition panel (don't look down or away); pretend the audition panel is the character your monologue character is speaking to
- Speak loudly, clearly, have lots of energy, and big facial expression
- Limit your movement; start your monologue in place

#### Step 4: Keep Preparing for Your Performance (Rehearse)

- Get up on your feet and rehearse it as much/often as possible
- Record yourself so you can watch yourself (look for your tendencies and habits; remember, you are performing as a character, not as yourself)
- Have someone watch you who doesn't know the monologue - if they can understand you, follow the story, feel your character's emotion, and understand what your character wants, you're on the right track

### Song Selection and Preparation Tips

1. Choose a song that you connect with and enjoy! Also, choose a song that fits your range.
2. Understand what the song is about. Go over the text so you know what to communicate.
3. Prepare the song so you are ready for your audition. Practice with the accompaniment as much as possible and memorize if you can (memorizing is not mandatory).
4. We have provided the vocal tracks, instrumental accompaniment, and sheet music for three songs students can choose from for their audition if they wish: "Good Morning Baltimore", "I

Know It's Today", "If I Only Had a Brain", "It's Possible", "Over The Rainbow", "We Beseech Thee" and "When I Grow Up" can all be [found on our website](#).

5. Students should be prepared to sing along with the accompaniment that they bring with them to the audition. Consider choosing a different song if you can't find a song with accompaniment. **Note: we have provided the accompaniment for seven songs. If you would like to select another piece/song, please ensure you have the karaoke/instrumental track on a Bluetooth enabled device. No a cappella (i.e. singing without accompaniment), please.**
6. Sing every day leading up to your audition so your voice is healthy and strong.
7. Drink plenty of water. Warm water will help warm the areas around the larynx (no coffee or milk). And get lots of rest the night before.
8. Physical stretches, humming and light vocal exercises can help you warm up right before your audition.
9. Enter the audition with confidence – even if you are nervous.
10. Stand tall. Good posture can help you sing better. Keep shoulders down, relax and breathe!
11. When you sing, just stand there and sing. No choreography or blocking is needed. You can add facial expressions and use appropriate body language to help tell the story if you want. Consider practicing in front of a mirror beforehand.
12. You will most likely get cut off during your song for time purposes. You do not have to start at the beginning of the song. If you want to start at a different section, you are more than welcome.
13. We may ask you to do a range and pitch test after your song.

## General Audition Tips

1. Relax, be confident, and know that we want you to do well and we want you in our program!
2. Introduce yourself to the audition panel, and when you're ready, begin with your monologue or song.
3. You may be given "re-directs" for your monologue or song – this means we may want you to try something a bit differently or say a few lines differently. This will give us the chance to see how well you take direction and how you adapt to feedback
4. Do not worry about the pitch-matching element or range test. There is no need to prepare for it; this is merely for our reference given that drama and vocal music will be combining as a performing arts major.
5. We are teachers – we know you may be more confident as either an actor or a singer – that's ok! We are here to help you build your skill and learn and grow as a performer! Passion and an eagerness to learn are the most important things to have!
6. Remember the keys to good performing – have a loud and clear voice, make sure your face is expressive and animated, connect/make eye contact with the audition panel, have lots of energy, and, most importantly, HAVE FUN!

**Final Note:** Remember, performing is fun! So don't stress or over-rehearse, but make sure you're prepared. If you make a mistake in your audition, that's ok! You can always start-over! Break a leg!

## Performing Arts

### Audition Rubric

| Element                            | Poor | Fair | Okay | Good | Excellent |
|------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Energy, Expression                 |      |      |      |      |           |
| Use of Voice, Volume, Articulation |      |      |      |      |           |
| Use of Body Language and Gesture   |      |      |      |      |           |
| Clear Character Objective          |      |      |      |      |           |
| Intonation, Diction, and Pitch     |      |      |      |      |           |
| Tone Quality & Musicality          |      |      |      |      |           |
| Range                              |      |      |      |      |           |

### Application and Interview Rubric

| Element               | Poor | Fair | Okay | Good | Excellent |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Interview Responses   |      |      |      |      |           |
| Application Responses |      |      |      |      |           |

Notes:

The next two pages contain a list of possible audition songs. You do not need to choose from this list; however, limit your selection to the following genres: Broadway, Disney, Classical and/or Folk (no pop or rap songs, please).

### **Examples of Young Broadway Selections**

- The Simple Joys of Maidenhood (Camelot)
- In My Own Little Corner (Cinderella)
- The Girl I Mean To Be (Secret Garden)
- I Know Things Now (Into The Woods)
- Colors of the Wind (Pocahontas)
- I Don't Know How to Love Him (JCS)
- Far From the Home I Love (Fiddler)
- God Help the Outcasts (The Hunchback of Notre Dame)
- Good Morning Baltimore (Hairspray)
- I Speak Six Languages (25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee) • Let's Hear It For the Boy (Footloose)
- A Change in Me (Beauty and the Beast)
- I Could Have Danced All Night (My Fair Lady)
- Home (Beauty and the Beast)
- A Lovely Night (Cinderella)
- I Enjoy Being a Girl (Flower Drum Song)
- Green Finch and Linnet Bird (Sweeney Todd)
- I Got the Sun in the Morning (Annie Get Your Gun)
- Astonishing (Little Women)
- As Long as He Needs Me (Oliver)
- Notice Me Horton (Seussical, the Musical)
- Maybe (Annie)
- One Boy (Bye Bye Birdie)
- Much More (The Fantasticks)
- If I Were a Bell (Guys and Dolls)
- Many a New Day (Oklahoma)
- What I Did For Love (A Chorus Line)
- 'Til There Was You (The Music Man)
- Not For the Life of Me (Thoroughly Modern Millie)
- Once Upon A Dream (Sleeping Beauty)
- Out of My Dreams (Oklahoma)
- My New Philosophy (You're a Good Man Charlie Brown)
- My Friend, The Dictionary (25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee)
- I'll Know (Guys and Dolls)
- Someone Like You (Jekyll and Hyde)

- They Say Falling in Love is Wonderful (Annie Get Your Gun)
- In His Eyes (Jekyll and Hyde)
- Schroeder (Charlie Brown)
- Over The Rainbow (The Wizard of Oz)
- I'll Know (Guys and Dolls)
- Wouldn't It Be Lovely (My Fair Lady)

### **More Examples of Young Broadway Selections**

- One Song Glory (Rent)
- Dancing Through Life (Wicked)
- Giants in the Sky (Into The Woods)
- Alone In The Universe (Seussical the Musical)
- Music of the Night (Phantom)
- Close Every Door (Joseph)
- On The Street Where You Live (My Fair Lady)
- My Blanket and Me (Charlie Brown)
- The Kite (Charlie Brown)
- A Cockeyed Optimist (South Pacific)
- A Bit of Earth (The Secret Garden)
- A Sentimental Man (Wicked)
- McElligot's Pool (Seussical)
- Goodbye, Old Girl (Damn Yankees)
- Go The Distance (Hercules)
- What Do I Need With Love (Thoroughly Modern Millie) • Easy To Love (Anything Goes)
- Singin' in the Rain (Singin' in the Rain)
- Wheels of a Dream (Ragtime)
- Mr. Cellophane (Chicago)
- Any Dream Will Do (Joseph)
- Santa Fe (Newsies)
- All I Need Is The Girl (Gypsy)
- Why, God, Why? (Miss Saigon)
- A Pirate King (Pirates of Penzance)
- Ten Minutes Ago (Cinderella)
- I Can Do That (A Chorus Line)
- How Lucky You Are (Seussical the Musical)
- Ladies Choice (Hairspray)
- I'm Not Saying a Word (Blood Brothers)
- King of the World (Songs for a New World)
- Were Thine That Special Face (Kiss Me, Kate)
- Til Good Luck Comes My Way (Show Boat)
- Confrontation (Jekyll and Hyde)

### **Examples of Folk Selections**

- Hymn to Freedom
- We Rise Again
- Fare Thee Well Love
- Cape Breton Lullaby