

## Tips for Auditioning at Theatre Memphis

### AUDITIONS

#### PREPARATION

Audition Notice: Read over the audition notice thoroughly. Complete audition notices are posted on the website ([www.theatrememphis.org](http://www.theatrememphis.org)) 3-4 weeks prior to auditions.

Read the Script: Read the script so that you have a good idea of the content and language. Decide which character(s) may be a good fit for you.

For musicals at Theatre Memphis, the initial audition generally consists of a vocal audition and an invited dance/movement callback later the same day. Cold readings from the script are generally reserved for invited callback auditions. Sides (scene selections from the script to be used for auditions) are not available before the day of auditions unless otherwise noted in the audition announcement.

Scripts (with vocal score) are generally available to check out from the Theatre Memphis box office at least three weeks prior to auditions. Scripts are available for a three day rental. The rental fee is \$10 **cash** deposit and will be refunded upon timely return of the script. All scripts, regardless of the day they are checked out, must be returned by the first day of auditions.

For Musicals- Review the Score/ Prepare music for auditions: Review the score so that you are familiar with the songs that the character(s) for which are auditioning sing. Select the song(s) you will perform for auditions based on what vocal qualities your desired character(s) must display. You will be expected to know your audition songs very well and sing with piano accompaniment. If auditioning for a specific character (rather than only ensemble), the director may ask you to prepare at least one of that character's songs from the show, prepared in the correct key for that character (from the show score).

Occasionally there are roles for non-singers in musicals. Read the individual audition notice for more information.

Complete the Audition Form: For every show at Theatre Memphis, there is a specific audition sheet to be completed. Audition sheets may be found on the website under the auditions tab, on the Monday prior to auditions. Please accurately mark information that is requested, especially in the calendar section that relates to rehearsal and performance availability. Paperclip the completed audition sheet on top of your resume and headshot.

Resume: Make sure your resume is clear, easy to read, and accurate. Even if you haven't had much performance experience, you may have valuable related experience. Any performance, dance, and vocal experience or training should be listed on your resume. Names of instructors and directors with whom you've worked should be listed, as well as the institutions at which you've performed or studied.

Headshot: You need not have a professional headshot. A good photo from the shoulders up will do. Photos should represent what you look like in real life, not glamorized. (The representation should be a close representation of what you look like at the time of audition, as the director will use the photo to refresh his/her memory of your audition.)

## **WHAT TO WEAR**

Your overall appearance should be neat and clean and a step up from everyday casual. Clothes should fit well and allow you to move easily and comfortably. If you will be taking part in a dance audition, come dressed to move. (You may bring a change of clothes if necessary.)

Shoes: Make sure you are wearing shoes that allow you to move easily and comfortably. A Character shoe, dance shoe, or a hard sole dress shoe is good to wear. No crocs, sandals, or flip-flops. If you will be taking part in a dance audition, wear appropriate shoes.

Hair: Have your hair styled in a way that keeps it out of your face and especially out of your eyes.

Jewelry etc.: Don't wear anything that will distract attention from your performance. (Examples: large or sparkly jewelry, dangling earrings)

## **INITIAL AUDITION**

Arrival: Make sure you give yourself plenty of time to get to the theatre in advance of the start time for auditions. There will always be a welcome sign on the front door letting you know where auditions are to be held.

You will check in at the first table. The person at the table will check to make sure you have your audition form, resume, and headshot. If you do not have an audition form or resume, a blank one will be provided for you. If you do not have a headshot, a photo will be taken of you on a blank wall. It will be printed and attached to your audition form.

Once you have your materials, you will go to a second table to check in and get an audition number. Be sure to return this number at the end of auditions.

Try not to bring too much “stuff” with you to auditions. There is a limited amount of space in the waiting room and audition room. Please do not leave anything of significant value in your car.

After checking in, you will wait your turn until you begin your audition.

Attitude: As you enter the audition space, even though you might be quite nervous, you want to look as though you are looking forward to this experience. (We at Theatre Memphis strive to provide positive audition experiences, so it’s very possible you may just have a good time!) Be aware that you may be observed from the moment you enter the room, not just when you’re reading a scene. How you watch the other auditionees, how you treat those on the audition panel, and how you interact with your fellow auditionees – all these things matter.

#### For Musicals- Vocal Auditions

Remember that the accompanist wants you sing well – help the accompanist help you by following these guidelines

- 1- Sing a song that you know – VERY WELL!
- 2- Have your song completely memorized.
- 3- Sheet music should be prepared in the correct key and in a folder that will stand up on the music rack.

(The folder should include only the music you have prepared for auditions. Any additional music you may have brought should be stored elsewhere. )

- 4- Music should be marked with the introduction, where you will begin singing, and where you will stop.
- 5- Give the accompanist your tempo while at the piano.
- 6- Thank the accompanist for playing for you when you collect your music.

#### Dance/Movement Auditions

Most musicals have a dance/movement section. If you would like to be considered for a dancing role, come dressed to move with appropriate dance shoes. The choreographer will teach auditionees a short dance piece, which will be reviewed several times before auditionees are asked to perform in small groups of 4-5.

Usually there are roles for non-dancers in musicals. Read the individual audition notice for more information.

## **CALLBACK AUDITION**

Callback auditions are the second round to the auditioning process. Callback auditions for a musical are most often held the Monday following the audition weekend. Notification for callbacks is made via phone call. Only those who are needed for the callback auditions will be given a phone call. These calls will be made by that Monday morning, at the latest. At times there are actors who are being considered for roles that will not be needed at callbacks.

Those attending callback auditions should prepare in much the same way as for the initial audition. If possible, auditionees will be notified of role(s) for which they are being considered. Auditionees may be asked to prepare a certain selection from the script for callbacks.

## **CASTING/REGARDS NOTICE**

Theatre Memphis directors strive to make casting decisions within the week following the callback audition. Phone calls will be made to those who are being offered a role. After the cast is confirmed, those who are not being offered a role will receive a regards notice via email. Sometimes it is not possible to confirm a cast within the week after auditions. If casting decisions will take longer than a week, those that are being considered for roles will be notified via email. Those who are no longer being considered for a role will receive a regards notice via email.

Please understand that email is the easiest and most efficient way we have of communicating with auditionees and cast members, but emails are not fail-proof. If you feel like you have missed out on hearing information about audition results, please contact Becky Caspersen, Abi Wiggins, or Chelsea Robinson at [psm@theatrememphis.org](mailto:psm@theatrememphis.org) or 901-682-5261.

About two weeks after being cast, you should receive a follow-up email from the Production Stage Manager. This email will contain introductory information about the show, including when a script will be available for you to pick up. This email will most likely not include a rehearsal schedule. Rehearsal schedules are generally not available until about two weeks before the first rehearsal date. Rehearsal schedules will be made based on the conflicts that are given on the audition sheet.

Cast lists are posted online about two weeks after auditions. You may view the cast list by clicking on the season tab and selecting the show title.