

Virtual Audition Tips for Davidson

There is a TON of good advice out there on the internet for how to ace a high school theatre audition, but what about for a VIRTUAL audition? And what specifically will we be looking for at Davidson? This list has been assembled to hopefully make you feel more comfortable with the upcoming audition. (FYI - Some of this info is from online resources, some is just from Mr. C!)

Nerves – Everyone gets nervous, it's normal – but how can you make sure that it doesn't get in the way for you? The best thing that I ever learned about auditions is that EVERYONE in the room wants you to do WELL. We're all on YOUR SIDE! When you do well, you are solving our problem, so we want to do everything in our power to make the audition go well for you. If you follow the other advice in this list, it will also significantly improve your nervousness.

Know the Material - Having your lines down pat (or at least REALLY WELL) is **key** in ensuring a successful audition. Practice them day and night until they are engrained in your brain. Apart from simply knowing the lines of the scene you'll be performing, make sure you know the play, too. Be aware of the storyline of the character for which you're auditioning and the overall style of the play. This will help you better understand your specific scene(s) and help you commit to character choices for your part.

Practice in the Same Environment as the Audition – This would be on a stage in a typical year, but for this audition it means to practice while on a webcam. Reading lines off a piece of paper in your bedroom is definitely something you should do in the beginning stages of practicing, but once you've got those lines down forwards and backwards, graduate practicing on a webcam to get comfortable with the medium. You can even record yourself and watch it to notice ways that you can improve. Trust me, your effort will not go unnoticed.

Recruit a Partner - Performing a monologue is intimidating, to say the least. Even seasoned theater performers get a bit nervous at the mention of the word. It will make the whole process so much easier knowing you have someone who can help along the way. But be careful of who you pick. You shouldn't enlist your bestie who doesn't care about being in the play just because they're the easiest choice. Instead, reach out to a fellow auditionee who will take it seriously.

Don't Dwell on Mistakes - If you flub a line or take a small stumble, don't let it get to you. The best thing to do in those types of situations is to **keep going**. Yes, the director is watching for how well you know the lines, but that's not the only thing that matters. Not even by a long shot. They also want to know that like any good actor you can improvise if the situation calls for it. Seamlessly coming back from a mistake is sure to make you stand out.

Have Confidence - The most important part about the whole audition process is believing in yourself. Know that you did your very best and you left it all on that stage. Whether you get the part or not, be proud of the fact that you put yourself out there.

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Be the First to Audition – There are lots of reasons for this, but being willing to get up there first shows the director your confidence and it also lets them know that you will be easy to work with – you are showing that you will be willing to try acting adjustments during rehearsals – and that’s a huge part of what makes for a successful production.

Be willing to try new things. - You should have prepared audition materials, but DO NOT get stuck doing a reading in only one particular way. Directors like to get performers to show off their range a bit in auditions, so be ready to alter your performance.

Have fun – This is LITERALLY the most important tip. Directors are looking for someone who looks like they are having a good time while performing. They want people who look like they really want to be there and are excited to perform.

In short, first prepare, then...

Bring your ENERGY -- Bring your FOCUS -- Bring the FUN

Break a leg!