

Auditions for courses - Acting

Auditions vary depending on the institution and your area of interest - it's about finding a match between you and the institution. Don't be put off by any rejections, put them down to experience and move on. Use these tips to help you think about preparing for your auditions.

Before you go:

- Contact the institution and make sure you understand the structure of the audition as they vary greatly between institutions in time and composition.
- Ask questions and find out as much as possible beforehand. They probably won't give too much away about what they are looking for, but all information is useful and may just give you the edge.
- Find out more about the course and college. What do you particularly like about this course? Why did you apply? What productions have they performed?
- Understand what opportunities they offer in terms of additional skills for the industry. What do they offer in terms of collaborative working, links to industry, facilities etc.
- Understand a little about the techniques they teach and the structure of the course - it may give you clues about what they will want from you.
- Prepare some questions to engage with staff and student ambassadors – use this chance to find out more about them.

Choosing the right audition pieces:

- Pick what you do best. Don't over complicate things or overstretch yourself, they will be able to see your potential for development
- Deliver what they ask for, don't try and be too clever in your choices
- Prepare well, practice and ask for advice from people whose opinions you value
- Don't try and pack too much in. You can't show your full range of skills in two minutes, they are probably looking for something more refined
- If the piece you pick runs well over time or doesn't suit the audition, find something that does fit rather than adapting your original choice
- Avoid copying other people's style from stage or screen. They are interested in you, your ideas and creativity

On the day:

- Remember it's not a life or death situation. This is a good experience so treat it as any other audition. If you don't you'll just get stressed out
- Be an active team member in tasks when it's needed - you will need to demonstrate the ability to do this on the course and in future productions
- Be relaxed and have fun and your creativity will shine through - this will show your talent in its best light
- They are looking for the commitment and energy that you can bring to the course so make sure you show this
- Don't be too worried about getting exercises right - rather than judging your present skills, they are looking for potential and your ability to learn the skills you need
- Take direction and written instruction wherever it's given - this is an essential skill tutors will be looking for