

### Audition notes

**I am going to be focusing on the dialogue aspect of Auditions, the new production of KISS ME KATE has had unprecedented levels of publicity so I have taken a scene from that show to focus on, so I hope it will challenge all of you!**

#### Preparation

Warmup both vocally and physically

Read the play or musical.

Read everything you can about the piece and the character that you are auditioning for and the function that they fulfil within the piece.

Relax

Watch the film if there is one but bear in mind, it will be different to the stage version

Listen to every word that the director says about the character that they are looking to cast.

Be prepared to be disappointed, especially if you are female as it will be far more girls/women going for the part than there will be men going for another part

Don't be too chummy with the audition committee.

Don't stand too close

Don't keep saying sorry when you go wrong.

If it's okay with the director, hold the notes in your hand and copy them onto a word document and make the much larger so that you don't have to wear your glasses

What to wear?

Dress in a manner that compliments the character that you are going for rather than go the whole Hog

it is better to suggest an interpretation to the director rather than to imitate a performance that You have already seen perhaps in a film.

If possible you could go and see the show done by another company and see how the character you are going to audition for is interpreted. Try not to do a slavish imitation as performance comes from within the actor and is not like wearing an overcoat because this will not inhabit the character, you will imitate the character and the sincerity of the performance will not ring through.

If you are sight reading ensure that you can deliver the dialogue fluently and that you understand the vocabulary. Work on emphasis, use of pause, accent, character movement etc. rehearse aloud before the audition, in front of the mirror, the cat anybody and get feedback; ensure that your voice fills the space. If auditioning in pairs work on reaction with your partner.

Improve your skills, nowadays you will find that you are competing against lots of people who have degrees in performing arts and theatre studies and many of whom may have worked in the professional theatre. Post Covid many performers who perhaps have been on the cruise ships are being attracted to Amdram as they are not going back into the professional world. You may be an enthusiastic amateur but you cannot compete against people who have had proper training, therefore get yourself some singing lessons go to drama workshops, work with a variety of directors and learn from their skills. You may well listen been told on many occasions, possibly by your parents, what a lovely singing voice you have and you've been in school productions but you need to equip yourself with skills that other people may have already acquired.

Age, weight, sex, height have you considered all of those before you go for a particular part? A Director's relationship with the audience is there primary responsibility and an audience must believe what they see –

Pirates Mabel large and Frederick tiny so she had to kneel down every time they had a duet!! I have also been passed a note in an audition where the lady who was auditioning promised to lose 4 stone if I gave her the part of the young soprano ingenue – sad!!!  
14 stone production!

Gender fluid casting – this can be contentious! Some roles can be played by women when they are written for men and it is a good idea when there are lots of ladies but do be careful, you are very unlikely to get a male role if you are female when there is a love story attached! You should not be stopped from auditioning for whatever you want but be prepared to be disappointed as an audience must believe what they see on the stage.

Nepotism

Track record

Remember the Director's mind is made up very quickly.

Deep breathing

Adrenaline

Physical warmup before you go on stage is essential

**Before you audition – focus on you and your performance, don't be distracted by chit chat**

**Be proud of your "Performance"**

Working a dialogue to give it colour and light and shade.

Mark every punctuation mark

Use pause

Slow down

pitch /pace / pause tension / power /passion

diction / enunciation

How to greet the audition committee.

Whether to learn the audition piece or not

Confidence – imagine the panel naked!!

use of accent

put the voice in the chest rather than at the back of the mouth because it tightens the throat

There must be motivation for every move

Keep the chin down/breath in and support the sound with the diaphragm

Work out how you want any readers in positioned

Show your emotions

Breathe

Articulation, Enunciation, Humming, Shake and grip

**Warm up** - Stretching from top to toe

Groups of called number

Yes let's

Greeting ritual

**VOICE WARM UP -**

**PEE PALE**

Warm up mouth with forefingers, tongue clock/

Yoga breathing

Me Mo More Ma May Me

Lifting the voice over the audience

Read the dialogue/ any words you don't understand/mark punctuation/heart beat/most important word/ what movement and why/ work with a partner/ listen to each other's dialogue /recommendations/ in small groups audition and chose 2 good ones

Audition before Casting committee and announce CAST