

Here are the 13 tips I would give kids auditioning for theatre.

1. DO YOUR HOMEWORK, BE PREPARED:

There's very little that you will have control over once you enter the audition room. Making sure that you're fully prepared with your audition material is the first step in making sure you're comfortable and confident. That includes keeping up with singing, acting, and dance classes.

2. ONLY WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF:

Don't waste your time sizing up the other kids in the lobby auditioning for the same project. Trust that you were called in to audition for a reason, and trust that you're just as worthy for the show as everyone else auditioning.

3. IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE, THAT'S OK:

Nobody is perfect. We're all human and everyone forgets a line or misses a note now and then. Don't worry about it. Even the best actors and actresses on Broadway make mistakes now and then and they learn from their mistakes for the next audition. If given the opportunity to start again, go for it and don't get nervous. And don't make excuses.

4. DONT SING SONGS OUT OF YOUR VOCAL RANGE:

It never does any good if you challenge yourself with a song that you're not ready for. Just because there are songs on the radio that you love to sing, that doesn't mean they are the best fit for your voice. Make sure whatever song you sing sits comfortably in your vocal range.

5. MAKE SURE YOUR SONG IS AGE/GENRE APPROPRIATE:

If you're going in for a classic musical theatre show, don't sing a pop song. And vice-versa! Also, it's always smart to veer towards songs that are age-appropriate. It shows that you know yourself well.

6. DRESS COMFORTABLY AND PROFESSIONALLY:

You should never show up "in costume" but in a comfortable outfit that's appropriate for the specific role you're auditioning for. Remember, it's similar to a business interview, so you don't want to come dressed like you don't care about the part.

7. BE NICE TO EVERYONE:

There's never any reason to be anything but pleasant to everyone you see at auditions. That doesn't just include the people behind the table- it includes the accompanist, the other kids in the lobby, the monitor, etc.

8. DON'T GIVE UP EASILY:

A lot of people in the entertainment industry will turn you down and tell you that you're not quite right for what they are looking for. That doesn't mean that you'll never get cast. The more you work on your acting, singing, and dancing, the bigger your chances are that you'll eventually land a great part.

9. READ THE CASTING BREAKDOWN CAREFULLY:

Be sure to read through all the information provided on the casting breakdown. For example, if it says there is no a cappella singing or using karaoke – then don't show up to the audition believe that the casting people will allow you to do that. Even if they do, it will reflect poorly on your ability to follow directions.

10. HELP THE ACCOMPANIST HELP YOU:

Be sure that if you are doing a musical audition that you have your sheet music clearly marked, in the correct key, and that it is a binder so it's easy to turn pages. Also, stay away from songs that are too challenging for an accompanist to sight-read. If you are not sure ask a piano player if they think it would be too difficult for someone to sight-read. Also, before you begin your audition, take the time to make sure that the accompanist knows where you are beginning and ending the song, and what the tempo is. Also let them know if there are any additional musical markings, retards, tempo changes, key changes etc. that they should be aware of. You may also want to consider bringing in your own accompanist.

11. DON'T LOOK AT THE AUDITIONERS

There are always exceptions but in my experience it's best to not look at the casting panel. They are there to do a job; assess your ability and appropriateness for the role. They are not there to be your audience. It's best to choose a spot/area over their heads that you can designate as the person you are talking/singing to. This will allow them to do their job and you to do yours which is tell the story of the monologue or song – not to worry about whether they like you or not.

12. DO MORE THAN JUST ACT, SING AND DANCE:

Directors like it when kids are involved in more than just acting, singing, and dancing. It's always great to hear that kids focus on playing sports, playing a musical instrument, or commit to other hobbies. Being well-rounded is always a good thing, it will come in handy later on in life, too!

13. HAVE FUN:

If you're not having fun when auditioning, then you shouldn't be doing it.