



The School

Audition Guide

Choices



Choose pieces that showcase your strengths.



Think about what those auditioning you will want to see, i.e. a candidate that has a clear voice that reflects feeling, someone who relishes vulnerability, a body free of tension.



Shakespeare - choose a speech that you understand completely and can relate to. You can find a list of suggested Shakespeare speeches on the audition page of our website: www.theschoollondon.co.uk/audition



Contemporary - choose something that is well-written. Look for a piece that has layers, i.e. thought and feelings not on the page.



Prep



Read the plays thoroughly so that you have a good understanding of the character and the writer's dramatic intentions.



Get off book. Don't underestimate how well you need to know the text. In performance, all thoughts should be the character's, not yours.



Don't set it in stone. Those auditioning you will want to see if you can take direction. You should be prepared to try different ways of delivering your scene.



Consider the impact you hope to make and what this requires.



On the Day



Do something physical when you wake. Get yourself out of breath and follow with a body stretch. This will relieve tension and nerves and set you up for a vocal warm-up.



Warm up your voice by starting with some focussed breathing, before adding sound. Move your voice through different pitches and resonances, encompassing your full vocal range. Finish with some articulation exercises, such as tongue-twisters, to get your facial muscles working.



Calmly think through all of your prep in detail, exploring each moment of your pieces.



Dress appropriately for your audition (in clothing that won't restrict you) and be on time!



In the Room



Remember that they want what you want - for you to be good - so try not to let nerves affect you adversely.



Listen carefully to what is asked of you - actors who can't listen are a red flag!



Avoid making eye contact with the panel in performance, unless asked to do so. It makes some people feel uncomfortable and it will not help with your nerves if you get a blank face staring back at you...



When given notes, try to take them fearlessly, whatever the outcome. The director will want to see that you are brave, responsive and trainable.



BREAK A LEG!