Village Theatre KIDSTAGE Production Audition Tips and Tricks

SIGN UP for an audition!
You must make an appointment to audition! Please sign up online at www.villagekidstage.org. There may be appointments still available the day before; it’s never too late to call! Audition appointments are in 5-minute slots.

EVERETT: Call 425-740-5035 x109 or E-mail Aaron at the Production Office at aalonso@villagetheatre.org

BE PREPARED for your initial audition!
Carefully read the audition requirements for each specific audition listing. This information can be found on our website: http://www.villagetheatre.org/everett/ks-auditions.php
Possible requirements include: 32 bars of one or two songs of different styles and a one-minute monologue. When auditioning for Institute, you are highly encouraged to have additional material prepared.

• CHECK YOUR MATERIALS:
  o 32 bars of a song = 32 measures = one verse and one chorus (usually) = approximately 60-90 seconds of singing. It’s okay to be a few bars under or over 32 if it helps you complete a thought or phrase.
  o Keep to the time requirements. You will be cut off if your selections are longer than required.

• PRACTICE: Have everything fully memorized and performance ready.
  o Rehearse every part of what you want to perform during the audition.
    ▪ How you want to enter the room, talk the accompanist through your music and introduce yourself and your pieces.
    ▪ How you will transition smoothly from your slate through the first piece, into the second piece, and back into yourself to conclude the audition.
  o Decide what order you are most comfortable doing your pieces in. We do not have a preference.

• KEY TERMS:
  o Golden Age musical = Classic shows written between the 1930’s/1940’s through the 1960’s
    ▪ Examples: Oklahoma!, Kiss Me Kate, Guys and Dolls, Bye Bye Birdie, The Sound of Music, etc.
  o Contemporary musical = Shows written after the 1970’s that also pushed what a musical could do
    ▪ Examples: RENT, The Phantom of the Opera, Les Misérables, Into the Woods, Wicked, etc.
  o Musical Theatre Pop Song = Contemporary musical theatre song that shows range and personality.

REMEMBER TO BRING…

• Your book of sheet music for each song you prepare:
  o A book is a three-ring binder that includes the sheet music of each song you have prepared
  o PLEASE HAVE MUSIC FOR YOUR SONGS. You may not sing a cappella (without accompaniment) or with a recording.
  o In the key you are singing it. The accompanist WILL NOT transpose your music on the spot.
  o Sheet music is hole-punched, two-sided, and inserted in your book (i.e. your three-ring binder).
  o Clearly marked start and stop points in music for accompanist.

• Headshot/Resume that looks like you do now:
  o Provide clear 8x10 or 8½x11 photos that look like you now, where you are the only one in the photo. School or photocopied photos are OK. (You are not judged on photos-we just want to recognize you!)
  o One copy of resume/headshot for each program you are auditioning (i.e. bring a total of three resumes/headshots if auditioning for Troupe, Summer Independent, and SummerStock). Also bring a couple of extras just in case.
  o Include all theatrical, music, dance, or other performing experience or training on your resume. Include relevant special skills like instruments played, dialects or languages, tumbling/gymnastics/acrobatics.

• Family Calendar:
  o Bring this so you can clearly and accurately identify conflicts with the rehearsal schedule(s).

• Audition Form:
  o To save time, you can find the audition form under the FORMS section on our website: www.villagekidstage.org
WHEN YOU ARRIVE...

- **Dress for success.** You should look like the best version of yourself. Be comfortable but professional and able to move naturally in your clothing and footwear.
- **Arrive 15 minutes early,** already warmed-up physically and vocally.
- **READ and fill out all the paperwork.** *Parents must sign the audition form if you are under 18.* An accurate conflict form is critical. DO NOT rush completing paperwork; we need all the information to make casting decisions.
- **Read the handout** provided that describes who is on the audition panel, the process for auditions that day, and the callbacks process beyond.
- **Exhibit courteous and professional behavior** to everyone you encounter that day. Your conduct at every point of the process is observed and noted.
- **Relax, breathe and HAVE FUN!** Let your personality shine through! Bring a water to keep hydrating and smile to make yourself feel good!

WHEN YOU ENTER THE AUDITION ROOM:

- **Smile and say hello** to the audition panel, you are already auditioning.
- **Go to the accompanist** first and talk him/her through your music.
  - Go over important details in your music. Where you start and stop. What you need at the beginning (i.e. “Play this note really loud, it’s my starting pitch.”). Your desired tempo. Anything special, like a hold, or a place where you will slow down or speed up.
  - Tell him/her if you will be doing the song or monologue first.
- **Stand on the X marked on the floor and SLATE** (introduce yourself and your pieces).
  - Include your name, age/grade, what you’re auditioning for (Institute, SummerStock, Summer Independent), the name of your first piece (title/author) and the name of your second piece (title/author).
    - For example: “Hello! My name is Susie Whatchername, I am 14 years old and auditioning for Institute, SummerStock and Summer Independent. Today I will be doing a monologue by Buttercup from William Goldman’s novel, The Princess Bride and “The Real Love of My Life” from Brigadoon by Lerner and Loewe.
- **Transition smoothly** between each segment. Take a breath, look down, or compose yourself in some other way.
- **Conclude your entire audition with a “Thank you,”** to the panel and pause.
- **PAUSE BEFORE LEAVING** in case the panel has questions for you. We may ask you to do a section of one of your pieces in a different way or an improvisation or ask you about something on your resume. Say “yes!” to anything asked of you. Take risks, make bold choices.
- **Exit with the confidence** that you did your very best.

WAITING TO HEAR ABOUT CALLBACKS...

- **Read the Callback Information** on the handout provided at general auditions. It will tell you when and how to expect to be notified, and whether no callback means not being cast or not. This is different for each show. *It is sometimes possible to be cast without being called back.*
- **WAIT TO CALL THE KIDSTAGE OFFICE** until the notification deadline has passed. It takes time to respond to everyone.

CALLBACKS!

- Collect your callback materials as soon as possible. You will find copies online at: [http://kidstageeverettproductions.blogspot.com/](http://kidstageeverettproductions.blogspot.com/)
- Prepare the materials you’ve been provided to the best of your ability.
- Wear the same clothes to callbacks as you did to generals as much as possible.
- **Scenes and Music:**
  - Hold the music/scene even if you have it memorized. Hold it flat and low so that we can see your face!
  - Act the song! Be bold and make choices! Be prepared to do your songs and scenes multiple times with direction from the team.
- **Dance Call:**
  - Dress comfortably and be ready to move! Wearing a similar color to your audition outfit is a huge help.
  - Arrive already warmed-up – physically and vocally.
  - Bring water so you can stay hydrated through the call.
RESOURCES
There are many resources with audition tips and tricks available. Here are just a few:

- musicaltheatreaudition.com – particularly useful to identify overdone songs/monologues.
- plays.about.com/od/basics/tp/Audition-Tips.htm
- tpsonline.org -- Theatre Puget Sound’s website. Search Talent -- a great way to look at examples of actor resumes.

OVERDONE MATERIALS:
Listed below are overdone audition materials. Do some digging and be creative.
There are a ton of great alternatives out there!

Songs:
“I’ve Got the Sun in the Morning”
  - Annie Get Your Gun
“Popular”
  - Wicked
“Good Morning Baltimore”
  - Hairspray
“Mama Who Bore Me”
  - Spring Awakening
“Part of Your World”/“Somewhere That’s Green”
  - The Little Mermaid / Little Shop of Horrors
  - Both are very similar songs
Songs from jukebox musicals
  - Examples: Rock of Ages, Across the Universe, Moulin Rouge, Mamma Mia!

Monologues:
Promedy – anything
Anne of Green Gables – meeting Matthew
You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown – anything
The Fantasticks – Luisa