

Some Audition Tips and Tricks From Backstage Magazine.

1. Be confident

It sounds simple, but it takes practice. Walk in the door with your head held high. Be wary of shuffling feet. You don't get sympathy points if you're nervous, not feeling well, or having a bad day. Leave it outside the door. You are being sized up the minute you walk in so practice good posture and body language before you arrive. And don't forget to smile—that's the lasting impression you want to leave.

2. Showcase your personality

Let it shine through. Don't give one-word answers when having a conversation with the casting director. Ask questions! The industry is looking for smart, curious actors.

3. Connect with your reader

Make one with the reader. Memorise the material or be familiar enough with it to maintain eye contact. Knowing the dialogue is important, but making a connection with the reader is what will make the scene natural and believable.

4. Know your character

Know the character. Read the entire script (or what you've been provided) beforehand to pick-up as many clues as possible. We know about a character by the following:

- What they say about themselves
- What other characters say about them
- What the playwright or screenwriter says about them

5. Know your character's objective

Go underneath the dialogue. What do they want from the other characters? What is the character's purpose in the scene and story?

6. Understand your character's obstacle

What's in the way of the character getting what they want? Acting is what happens to you as you try to get your objective met, in spite of the obstacle.

7. Play opposites

Yelling isn't the only way to show hatred or anger. Sometimes being quiet as you make your point is a powerful display of emotion. Playing opposites is a much more interesting choice than the obvious.

8. Find the love

Find the love in the scene; even nasty characters should be likable on some level. Find a moment in the scene where the love can show through.

9. Embrace action

Acting means do, not talk. Find your actions and play them! (A wonderful resource is the book "Actions: The Actor's Thesaurus" by Marina Caldarone and Maggie Lloyd-Williams.)

10. Show variety

Feel the levels and dynamics in the scene. Don't play one emotion. If the character is angry or tough, when might they show some vulnerability?

Wannabe? Not you! Interesting, memorable auditions will start to happen for you when you dig into scripts with these thoughts in mind before and during your auditions.