

Guidelines for a successful audition

It is standard practice at WAOS is to hold “open” auditions. This means that all auditions are watched by everyone else, whether they be competing for the same role, auditioning for a different role, or simply there to observe. We recognise that auditioning for a part requires a lot of effort and courage, which is why we have put together the following guidelines for auditions.

Aim of the audition

The aim of the audition is to ensure that the Casting Committee knows that you can sing and act the role, and that you meet the Director’s expectations for the part. The Casting Committee will typically be made up of the Director, the Musical Director, the Choreographer, and at least one other member of the WAOS committee*. Remember that auditions are all about **your** potential.

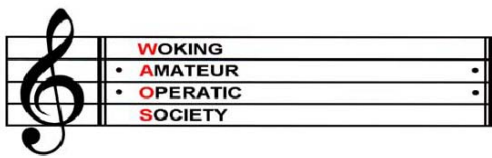
* *WAOS committee member(s) on the Casting Committee must not be auditioning for a principal role*

Things that the Casting Committee will be looking out for:

- Will you have the ability to develop the character fully, through mutual understanding of the character and the Director’s vision?
- What will you bring to the role that is unique?
- Will you give a full commitment to a director, the cast and the show itself? You will be asked to declare your involvement in any other productions that may clash. Bear in mind that whilst you may think that you are capable of rehearsing for more than one production at a time, the Casting Committee must consider the impact this may have on other cast members if rehearsals have to be missed or the full commitment cannot be shown throughout the rehearsal process.
- How well will you fit in with the rest of the cast?

Before the audition

A few weeks before auditions, the Director will hold an “introduction evening” in which the plot and characters of the show will be explained to you, as well as the Director’s vision for the show and what is expected of the cast. Following this, and as you will be required to perform songs from the production at the audition, there will be a few rehearsals prior to auditions in order to learn these songs. In order to familiarise yourself with the characters and songs, it is valuable to attend as many of these rehearsals as you can.



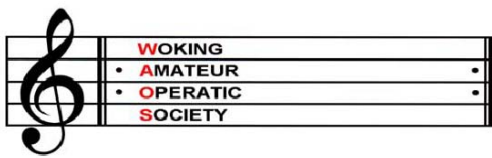
Preparation

One of the hardest things to overcome with any audition is anxiety. There are many forms in which this might manifest itself but common signs are shaky hands, hyperventilating, overacting, and inflection rising at the end of each sentence. The best way to try to overcome this is to prepare yourself well in order that you feel as relaxed and comfortable as possible during your audition. Try to take some time to practise your delivery at home, paying particular attention to:

- Developing characterisation and motivation for the character
- Speaking slowly and clearly with good articulation. Try reading aloud to your family, children, in front of a mirror, and projecting your voice e.g. from the top of the stairs
- Try where possible to memorise audition pieces, as this will enable you to get into character and act out a piece more easily during the audition, rather than simply reading from the script
- Familiarise yourself with the storyline in order to gain a better understanding of the character you are portraying
- Ensure that you are familiar with any musical pieces you will be expected to perform. Again, try to add characterisation whilst performing these.

The audition

- Try and arrive early for an audition in order to feel relaxed and to give yourself time to prepare. If you are going to be late on the day, due to unforeseen circumstances, try and contact one of the Casting Committee as soon as possible in order that the audition timetable can be re-organised if necessary
- Wear clothing that you feel comfortable in
- Do a few relaxation exercises before you are required on stage
- Ensure any papers that you use (libretto, score etc) are in the correct order
- When you are called, be confident and happy with yourself. Smile and meet the Director's eyes in a genuine manner. Try not to walk with your head lowered so the casting director can't see your face.
- Where appropriate, greet the accompanist and take a short time to indicate your needs
- It is important for the Casting Committee to see your face, so try not to mask it with hair, hands, a script etc.
- Remain focused and intent on portraying the character you are playing particularly if you are in a two-person audition
- Try not to be distracted by the reactions (or not!) of the Casting Committee.
- Use the acting area in an appropriate manner for the character you are portraying, and keep your own gestures in line with that character.
- Props can be distracting so only use the where absolutely necessary.



- Try to make good eye contact with your audience. If you are not comfortable with making eye contact, try looking just over the audience's head.
- Try not to fidget. Stand comfortably with one foot slightly in front of the other, with the weight on the balls of your feet. Your arms and hands should remain relaxed by your side unless you are using them for specific gestures.
- You may be asked to perform your audition piece again in a slightly different way. Do not take this as an indication that you were “doing it wrong” the first time round.
- Try not to get flustered if you make a mistake. If you feel that you can continue on as if nothing happened, do so, if not stop and ask the Director if you may begin again.
- Once the audition has finished, thank the Casting Committee and accompanist and try to walk out in the same positive manner in which you walked in
- Try not to show your emotions if you feel that the audition went badly. If you have a genuine concern, speak to a member of the Casting Committee at an appropriate moment.

The audience

Whilst watching auditions, we kindly request that the audience show respect and consideration by:

- not talking or causing any disruption throughout others’ auditions
- switching off all mobile phones
- Applauding in a fair and consistent manner to all auditionees

Results of the audition

The results of the audition will be posted onto the WAOS website as soon as possible after the decisions have been made. This may be delayed if further auditions are to be held, but we will always endeavour to publicise them in the quickest timeframe possible, as we know how nerve-wracking waiting for results can be!

We would ask that you are mindful and respectful of your fellow auditionees and cast members feelings and bear this in mind when posting any comments on social networks.

Important note: If you would like any feedback from your audition, please contact a member of the WAOS committee, preferably one who sat on the audition panel.

We hope that you find the above guidelines useful and wish you all the very best for your upcoming audition.

If you any specific concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to approach any of the WAOS committee for advice.

Break a leg!