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AUDITIONING: TEN Important Things to Remember

Adapted from the article found in the Screen Actors Guild's "Winter 2005 SCREEN ACTOR"

- 1- BE PREPARED** - Know your craft. There is no substitute for preparation. Auditions are a way to demonstrate your skill and value to the production. They also give you valuable experience and exposure to the theater community.
- 2- THINK AND BEHAVE PROFESSIONALLY to everyone** - from the assistant who helps you to sign in to the audition panel, the director, musical director, technical director, other people in the room, the other people who are auditioning...everyone. An actor's personal behavior speaks volumes and sometimes begs the question, "Do I really want this person in the show?"
- 3- BE ON TIME** - Casting takes place in a fast-paced environment and directors appreciate consideration of their time and schedules. Don't waste their time, be personable and responsive, but don't try to overstay your welcome.
- 4- PRESENTATION** - Make sure you can be seen and heard. Position yourself so that your face is visible (also, keep long hair out of your face). Dressing for a role is fine, but don't wear a costume. Wear something that suggests the character or the profession and let your performance do the rest. Don't wear heavy perfume, cologne or scented oils (some people are allergic or bothered by strong scents). Ditto for distracting jewelry or accessories. Allow the director to focus on your performance.
- 5- DO YOUR HOMEWORK** - Know who and what you are auditioning for. By researching, you may find connections to other people or projects, and learn about the style or genre of a project or its creators. Likewise, get familiar with the show.
- 6- DON'T LET ANYTHING THROW YOU** - You have the right to be there. When other actors in the room don't look like you, think about yourself as "the other way to go." Sometimes auditions are about exploring options, so stay confident and show the director how you would do the role. If you are asked to read another role or sing a different song or make an adjustment to what you have just done, make an adjustment, take a moment, and then do your best to do what is asked of you.
- 7- BE GRACIOUS AND RECEPTIVE TO FEEDBACK AND RE-DIRECTION** - Don't challenge, make excuses or try to explain yourself. Stay open and easy to direct.
- 8- AUDITIONS, LIKE SCENES, HAVE A BEGINNING, MIDDLE, AND AN END** - Walk in confidently, take charge of how you want to work, do your job and get out of the room as soon as the director tells you that you are finished (always leave them wanting more). Once you've left the audition, let it go. You can have a great audition and still not be cast through no fault of your own.
- 9- DIRECTORS REMEMBER GOOD WORK** - Show yourself in the best light possible by being prepared, professional and positive.
- 10- BE WILLING TO STEP OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE, CHALLENGE YOURSELF AND HAVE FUN** - Theater is about conflict, risk and growth. It is the actor's task to explore and experience those challenges while having fun through play.