

Audition Hints and Tips

from the Artistic Director of SRO

1. **Headshot:** Each performer should bring an 8x10 color OR B/W photograph with their resume on the reverse side. (For those with digital camera capabilities, you can take a headshot and then print it on Kodak paper with your name on the front. On the reverse side use a glue stick to paste on your resume, or staple it at all 4 corners. An enlarged black and white school photo will also work.)
2. **Song:** Each performer should prepare either a Broadway show tune or a standard. (An example of a “standard” might be a Gershwin hit like I Got Rhythm or a Berlin tune like Blue Skies.) Please provide sheet music for the accompanist to play. (You may go to a local library or for High Desert residents, try DB Sound for sheet music. You can also try the numerous sites online. Sorry, no pop music, no a capella, and no background/CD accompaniment allowed.) Prepare 16 bars to showcase your best vocal ability. Have a backup song ready in case we need to hear more of your voice or a different style. Its best for your alternate song to be of a contrasting style. Please stay away from Sondheim and Jason Robert Brown for this type of show. It is best to try to find a good song that flatters your voice and is in the style of the musical. Mark in your music where you want the accompanist to begin. Have the music in the proper key. Some directors are very specific about sticking to 16 bars and may cut you off after they have heard enough...so make sure your selection gets to the “money notes” before they cut you off! You may be asked to slate your name and the name of your song selection (“Hi my name is Karla Franko and I will be singing I Got Rhythm from Crazy for You”).
3. **Dance:** There will be a movement/dance audition, so please bring appropriate attire (including comfortable, modest clothing) and dance shoes (jazz or tennis shoes). All auditioners will be required to do a basic movement audition. A separate combination will be offered for more experienced dancers. If you tap, pack your shoes, since we may want to see a bit of your ability in this area. Also, if you have knee pads, bring the along in case there is floor work in the choreography.
4. **Dress to impress:** Ladies: It is best to wear a skirt or dress and to have your hair out of your face. Avoid trendy clothing and stick to things that would be considered professional attire (dressy pants would be acceptable). Minimize makeup and don't dress in costume or of the era! Men: Slacks with a belt and a buttoned shirt is best. You should avoid jeans.
5. **Roles:** If you are auditioning for a “Principal,” that means you are vying for a role with a name and lines...otherwise known as a Lead or Supporting character. The Ensemble is made up of singer/dancers who often get chosen to do bit parts or have special business but are not named characters.

6. **Personal belongings:** Bring water to all auditions and be sure to turn off any noise on your cell phone so you do not disturb the audition process with rings or blings.
7. **Callbacks:** Callbacks are at the discretion of the Production Team. Normally, only Principals are considered for callbacks — so if you are auditioning for the Ensemble, once you are finished with the initial process, you should not expect a callback. However, you may need to wait for an answer about casting decisions. Most companies only contact you if they ARE interested in casting you in their show, and will either call or email. SRO sends courtesy emails to everyone that auditioned to give the auditioners closure that they have not been cast.
8. **Takeaways:** Every audition is an opportunity to perform. The more you do it, the easier it gets and the better you get at the process. Just know that generally speaking, everyone cannot be cast in a given show. Use each audition as a learning and growing experience. Most importantly, be yourself and use each opportunity as a way to share your gifts and talents!

H A P P Y A U D I T I O N I N G ! ! !