

Acting – Lesson 2

Auditioning with Raydell Cordell III

Audition Tips and Tricks:

1. Be Kind

- Be kind to the other actors in the waiting room, to the monitor, to the receptionist, to the security guard – to everyone... including yourself! You never know who's watching, and you should be kind regardless because it generates positive energy, which is good for everyone.

2. Be Focused

- When waiting to enter an audition, keep the extraneous chatter away from the audition spaces. People are trying to focus – JUST AS YOU SHOULD BE. Use this time to focus on your work. Remember, practice what you want to perform.

3. Be Prepared

- Being prepared in every possible way is sure to make you stand out as a hard-working individual. i.e.: Be warmed up, physically and vocally, have all your paperwork ready to go, know the character, understand the tone of the script, and be aware of who's in the room. As the saying goes, "Success happens when preparedness meets opportunity."

4. Be Confident

- Your audition starts as soon as you walk through the door. When you enter the audition room/stage, greet the individuals in the room and have a positive attitude. We should see you, NOT your character. Be yourself and be prepared!
- Walk with confidence! It's your time to share the work you labored over. Wait a few seconds to see if everyone is ready (when most heads look up to acknowledge you – you should be good to go), then start.
- Remember, the directing team wants to see the "real" you during an audition. These moments will determine whether or not they want to spend hours, weeks, months, working with you.

5. What if I forget?

- Go in and do the best you can do and be happy with that. Don't ask to start over. Don't start over!
- Mess up? Fight through it. And it probably wasn't as bad as you thought. Only you know that you have messed up. If anything, make it a choice! When you finish your audition – even if you had to stop early or forgot – say "Thank you!"



6. What if they ask me to do more?

- This means the directing team wants to see how well you can take direction! Please, take criticism/directions respectfully. The director may ask you to do a certain section over again a different way or may give you advice for future auditions. You may be asked to do additional cold reading on the spot.
- Showing the director that you can take direction and change up your performance to match their vision can be the make or break of your audition.

7. Exiting

- After your final moment in your piece, take a beat and go back to your neutral position and say, "Thank you!".
- Be quick with the exit, but don't be caught completely off guard if they ask you a question. Be respectful and thank everyone in the room with a brief look, nod or professional wave.

Creative Extensions:

- Prior to any audition, brainstorm ways to establish your character. What might your rate of speech, facial expressions, gestures, posture and other movements tell us about your character?
- Record yourself and reflect on your performance. What can you change? What did you like?
- When reading plays and/or musicals, classify what genre of work it is – dramatic, comedic, etc. How might the genre impact your character choices?

