

>> TIPS FOR AUDITIONING <<
The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
Department of Theater | NHCC

It's OK to be nervous.

Don't worry about being nervous: just about everyone is nervous during an audition. Everyone working with you at your audition **knows you are nervous; it's perfectly natural**. Everyone working with you at your audition *has been through auditions themselves* and is highly conscious of how intimidating this process can be. Do your best to smile, stay positive, and have a good time.

Be prepared.

If you are asked to present a song or monologue, prepare your piece well. Practice before your audition. If you haven't practiced, *don't tell us*. This doesn't make a good impression.

Be kind to everyone in the audition process and smile.

Remember: your audition begins *the moment you walk up to the check-in table*. Treat everyone you encounter at your audition politely, with care, goodwill, and thoughtfulness.

Give yourself time.

On the day of your audition, please give yourself time for your audition. When you arrive, you'll need to complete paperwork. As well, you'll need time to relax and focus, and you need time for your actual audition. Because auditions are on a "drop-in" basis, there may be a line of folks ahead of you. Be sure not to schedule something immediately afterwards so that you don't feel rushed.

Use your waiting time wisely.

It is great to see friends at auditions. But be sure not to lose your focus and concentration for auditions. It's perfectly fine to just concentrate on yourself at auditions in order to do your best. You're not being rude; you're taking care of *you and prepping yourself as best as you can*.

Dress appropriately.

For auditions & rehearsals, the Dept. of Theater asks that actors come *dressed for movement*. You should dress in clothes that are comfortable and **will not impede movement**. Please NO SKIRTS OF ANY KIND. Gym/workout clothes are ideal! Please, no flip-flops, boots, high heels, or crocs, etc. Laced shoes that stay on your feet are a must. Dance shoes or tennis shoes/trainers are appropriate. Your attention to our proper clothing requests is always noted.

Introduce yourself & be prepared to engage.

When you walk into the audition room, tell us your name, be enthusiastic! This makes a good first impression. Be ready to do requested movements or acting tasks. We may ask you to read from a script, sing, do a movement sequence, or be willing to show us any physical abilities you possess. Come to auditions to impress! Be willing to say "YES" — and give our requests a try **with good cheer and enthusiasm**. Being open, flexible, enthusiastic, and brave is needed for acting in a play.

Don't watch the directors.

When performing your audition, do not look directly at the people you are auditioning for, unless specifically directed to do so. Instead, **imagine** a large audience seated in the theater's seats and *perform for them* — imagination is an essential ingredient for performing in theater.

Mistakes happen.

If you make a mistake, do not apologize, do not feel bad, and *please don't beat yourself up about it*. Remember that others may not even notice a mistake, but if you point it out to them, they will know for sure.