

>>>GUIDELINES FOR AUDITIONS AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY<<<

1. **Bring information about yourself**, including name, address, phone number, and e-mail. Please bring a résumé and, if you have one, a headshot. Letters of recommendation are always appropriate and welcome.
2. **For music theatre auditions, bring sheet music for the accompanist.** Please make sure you clearly mark your music as to where you will begin, end, and any cuts you may have. It is also helpful to note any 'cue' lines, if you are going straight into singing from a monologue. As you will have a limited time, selections of an up-tempo song and a ballad are strongly recommended, instead of the full pieces.
3. **Always select age appropriate pieces.** Even if it takes a great deal of effort to find a piece that is close to you in age, you really must. It is not appropriate for an entering student who is a teen or in his/her early twenties, to present a middle-aged character. The demands of fine plays are significant enough that we would ask that you do not add the challenge of presenting a person whose life experiences far exceed your own (if not in emotional range, then simply in reasoning). Please take this advice to heart.
4. **Select pieces which you have rehearsed.** An audition is not a good place to try something brand new. Allow yourself plenty of time to prepare your piece before you show it.
5. **Be sure your pieces really do CONTRAST each other.** You may select classical to contrast your contemporary piece. But also make sure that the characters in both pieces show a range in you.
6. **Always wear clothes, and particularly shoes, that are flattering and support your work as an actor.** The new platform shoes are bulky and often inhibit movement. Your clothes should look professional, yet allow you flexibility and assist the movement and physicality of your work.
7. **Introduce your pieces with clarity, providing your name, the name of the character, the playwright.** Chances are that your auditors will be familiar with your selections, so you do not need to provide contextual information from the play to preface your work.
8. **Select a specific focus that DOES NOT INCLUDE THE AUDITORS.** The auditors need to be free to make notes during your performance.
9. **Listen carefully to the directions you are given, if a director/auditor works with your piece.** Respond to the instructions you are given by making bold choices. The director/auditor wants to know if you are able to actively listen and absorb information. He/she also wants to know if you are able to create spontaneously and commit to a given choice.