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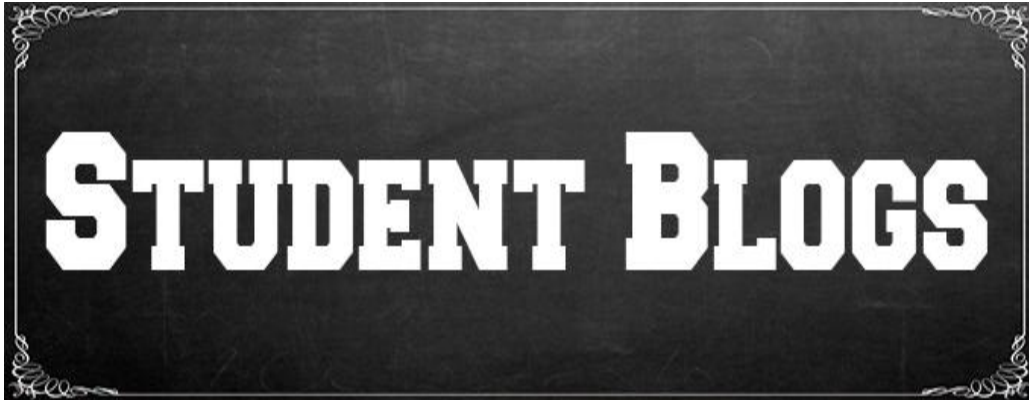
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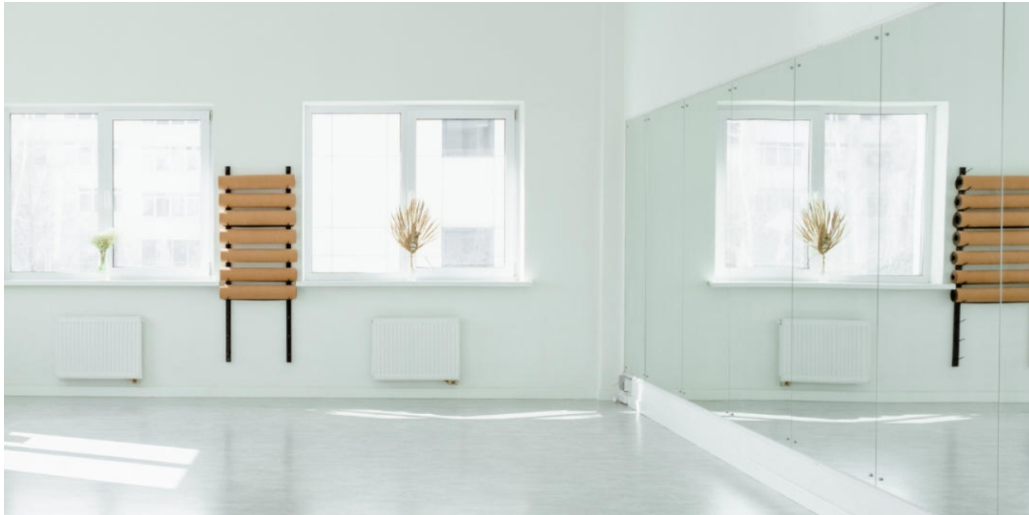
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By: Student Blogger: Austin Watts Jan. 16, 2024



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Nearly every great performance was preceded by an audition. As an actor, I've been through more audition processes than I can count. For many, an audition is one of the scariest parts of the whole process. However, I've picked up a few tricks that help me put my best foot forward in every audition. Auditioning is not an exact science, and comes in all shapes and sizes. For many companies, in-person primary auditions are a thing of the past and stage actors are expected to be just as comfortable in front of a camera



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that they may not be as comfortable in.

I have found that the ideas I am going to share in this blog most closely align with my artistic values, but, once again, the audition process is a unique beast. My career also only spans twelve years and one geographical area, so take everything that I am about to share with whatever grain of salt you deem appropriate. I am by no means an expert, but definitely do feel as though I have some insights worth sharing. I've compiled my ten key tips and tricks for auditions, as well as some examples from my experience that I hope you will find helpful!

## 1. Be Friendly with the Panel

When you walk into an audition room, any number and variety of people could be sitting behind the table. The directors, casting managers, producers, choreographers, stage managers, music directors, accompanists, associates, assistants, and more could all be there to watch your audition. I've auditioned in front of just two people, but also in front of twenty. This is the panel. They will all likely be taking notes on whatever discipline they oversee, and will be responsible for casting whatever it is you may be auditioning for. Many performers get so overwhelmed by the audition environment that, in their quest for professionalism, they forget to be amiable toward the people behind the table. After all, these are the people who decide whether or not you get into the show, so why not be outgoing? This extends into the realm of self tapes as well. An energetic and genuine virtual slate is far better than a dry and boring one.

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Most auditions do not include any sort of formal assessment regarding your personality (which includes your work ethic), so take what opportunities you have to demonstrate enthusiasm. For my audition for *The SpongeBob Musical* at Mesa Community College, I completely missed my cue for one of my songs. The accompanist played on for about two measures, but I just could not figure out where he was in the song. I politely asked if I could start over, and the accompanist ran me through exactly where my entrance was. I cracked a joke about the piece with the panel, and they laughed with me. The director struck up a conversation about the show it was from with me, and we had a humorous little chat before I started again. Being comfortable with those in the room with you not only heightens your performance quality, but makes you memorable. I ended up making it into that show, and have maintained a great relationship with the production team well beyond its closing.

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