



COLLEGE AUDITION PROCESS PRESCREEN TIPS: ACTING for the CAMERA

The information provided below will help you successfully apply to undergraduate theatre programs, particularly regarding the pre-screen audition. NOTE: As school requirements vary, be sure to submit *exactly* what the college is asking in order to get that in-person audition!

START:

- Research (BA vs. BFA)
- Set up interviews
- Visit school
- Talk to students in program

ORGANIZE:

- Excel sheet with
 - College names
 - Deadlines
 - School
 - Theatre Program
 - Prescreen
 - Audition

PREPARE MATERIAL:

- Monologues
 - Read plays
 - Select with teacher, coach
 - Follow college instructions
 - Workshop with teacher, coach
 - Practice in a variety of spaces, e.g.
 - Classroom
 - Stage
 - Living Room
 - Outside
 - Etc. (varying size of space)
- Songs
 - Select with teacher, coach
 - Follow college instructions
 - Rehearse
 - Accompanist
 - Recorded instrumental track
 - Multiple Takes
 - Follow college instructions



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- Dance
 - Select piece with teacher, coach
 - Follow college instructions
 - Rehearse
 - Smooth surface
 - Clothes, footwear – easy to move in
 - Multiple Takes
 - Follow college instructions

- Wild Card
 - Do it – prepare it
 - Show a unique talent
 - Be yourself
 - Explore different editing opportunities

PREPARE SPACE:

- Clear space of distractions
- Backdrop
 - Neutral Color
 - Wall (without pictures, décor, mirrors)
 - Screen
 - Sheet (dark blue or grey; must lie flat)
- No back light
 - Steer clear of windows
 - Watch out for glare

PREPARE YOU:

- Warm-up
 - Physically
 - Vocally
- Clothes
 - Neutral, flattering, focus on face
 - Avoid distracting jewelry
 - Comfortable, flattering

CAMERA:

- Tripod vs. Camera-person
- Ring light(s) or lighting kit
- Frame according to piece (e.g. close-up, three quarter, full body)



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- Follow college instructions
- Use multiple cameras (if possible)
 - Vary shots (e.g. zoom-in, zoom-out, etc.)

SLATE:

- Look directly into the camera
- Follow school's directions re: name, title of monologue
- Transition (e.g. look down)
- Find the person you're speaking to
 - Look towards the left or right of the lens
 - Not profile

PERFORM:

- Go for it!
- Use your body, not just your hands
- Film in one take
- Hold the moment when done
- Say "thank you" and smile

POST-PRODUCTION

- Follow school instructions
 - Edit only wildcard – be creative!
- Reshoot if not your best
- Submit on time

BREAK A LEG!