



Audition Tips & Preparation Guide _ 2026-2027

We're so excited that you're auditioning for a bergenPAC production or showcase! This experience is all about growth, confidence, and having fun while sharing your talent. You don't need professional experience. Just bring your enthusiasm, your best effort, and your love for performing.

Coming into the room prepared is the first step!

An important part of growing as a performing artist is creating your own **go-to audition book**. Whether you're preparing for a specific audition, waiting to receive sides or audition materials, or an unexpected opportunity comes your way, you should always have material that you know, love, and feel confident performing.

We recommend keeping **at least two contrasting songs, one monologue, and one scene** prepared and ready to go. Your scene should be something that can easily be read opposite a reader in the audition room.

The more familiar you are with your material, the more freedom you have to focus on what really matters: being present, making strong choices, taking direction, and showing the audition team who you are as an artist.

Remember, being prepared doesn't mean being perfect. It means walking into the room ready to do your best, try something new, and enjoy the opportunity to perform.

Now, let's get you ready for your audition book!

Headshots

If you're asked to bring a photo, an 8x10 headshot or a recent snapshot works perfectly. No need to overthink it—a school picture or natural photo is fine, as long as it looks like you. Professional headshots are great but not required. The most important thing? Be yourself and *look* like yourself.

Please see some examples of acceptable headshots, *below*:



Resumes

A resume helps our team get to know your background. It should be one page and easy to read. Include:

- Your **name** and **phone number** at the top (no address or email needed).
- Headings like *Theater*, *Film*, *Training*, and *Special Skills*.
- No dates are necessary—just your credits and experiences.
- If you have a headshot, staple your resume to the back (*cut to the same 8x10 size*).
And don't stress if it's short! Everyone starts somewhere, and we love seeing fresh talent discover their passion.

[Click Here for Example 1](#)

[Click Here for Example 2](#)

[Click Here for Example 3](#)

Monologue Tips

Choose something **age-appropriate** and with a positive or relatable message.
Avoid material that's too heavy or mature—think uplifting, honest, and expressive!
Shorter monologues that let your personality shine are always best.

There's a lot of free helpful resources online. Please see the links below for some *examples*.

[Drama Notebook](#)

[Stage Milk](#)

[NYC Castings](#)

Song Selection

Pick a song that fits *your* age and voice.
It's often stronger to choose something simple and sincere over something big and belty.
Stay away from the super overdone songs we've all heard a thousand times (you know who you are, "On My Own")... Find a song that feels like *you*—something you can tell a story through.

Sheet Music & Preparation

If you're bringing sheet music:

- Make sure it's in the **correct key** for your voice.
- Place it in a **binder**—no loose pages, please. **Pro tip!** Put your headshot picture in the front cover of your binder!
- Clearly mark your **start, end, and any cuts**.
- Always listen to your version of the song with the sheet music before the audition.
(*Different arrangements can sound totally different.*)
- Say hello to the accompanist (*always! Think of them as a part of your performance. Your band!*) and communicate your tempo and cues before you sing—it makes a big difference.... And don't forget to thank them when you are finished and leaving the room.

Performing Your Song



Keep your presentation simple. Focus on storytelling and connection, not choreography. Take a breath before you start, and stay in character for a few seconds after you finish. If you forget a lyric or note, don't panic—just keep going. We're not looking for perfection, we're looking for presence!... And most importantly, **project your voice!** (*without screaming 😊*) Let the back of the theater feel your energy and confidence.

Audition Dress!

Dress your best — or dress in a way that helps you show who *you* are. What does that mean?? A clean shirt and pants (no stains or rips) are a great start! Avoid costumes or anything too distracting — you don't need to "*look like*" the character, just look confident, put-together, and ready to perform. Choose clothes that let you move comfortably and feel like your best self. Have a backup outfit should you get your fit dirty, or need to change for a dance callback. Hair out of your face, shoes you can walk and dance in (*different if needed*), and a smile that says, "I'm ready for my spotlight!"

FINAL THOUGHTS! :)

Remember: this is a learning experience! Every audition is a chance to grow, to take a risk, and to celebrate your creativity. We're thrilled to see you shine on the bergenPAC stage!

Break a leg!!

-Ashley Tobias
Assistant Director of Education