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Peploe Williams ACADEMY of Theatre and Performing Arts

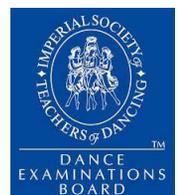
Top Audition Tips for College Entry at 18

You've got the audition invitation to start the next phase of your education. It's thrilling, exciting, and you're desperate to do your best – so what are the things you need to remember to give yourself the best chance of success?



Follow our seven PWA steps to being **PERFECT** at your audition, and whatever the outcome, you'll know you've done everything you could on the day.

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Plan. Know everything that you're planning to do, inside and out. Familiarise yourself with the acting piece you will be performing, study the character, and decide how you're going to play it. Prepare your song thoroughly, having sheet music, and a backing track available if required. Plan your outfit, plan your journey to the venue, plan the full day's schedule, and give yourself plenty of time to get ready (hair, clothes, makeup, dance shoe types, clean copies of pieces etc).

Earliness is as important as performing well –perhaps it's even more important. The best audition in the world can be ruined by lateness. If you are late, you have already caused annoyance and their first impression is that you can't plan, and you're unreliable. Everyone in this industry hates lateness – producers, directors, casting directors, other performers. Don't be late.

But don't announce your arrival too early, either. Get there, wait nearby, and then sign in a few minutes before you were expected.

Relax and breathe. You've arrived in good time, and now you need to focus and be calm, so that you can rely on all of your PWA training and education to show what you can do. You don't need to go in there still stressing about the journey, how you look, or where you need to go. If you are still stressed when you walk into that room, it will show. Everyone needs to take some time to focus, and you know best how long it's going to take you to do that. So however much time you know you'll need, that's how much time to allow yourself.

Frame your Expectations. You need to expect rejection. You will have many, many, many auditions in your career, and you won't get most of the them. This is one of the most difficult things to deal with, and unfortunately it will happen more often than not; but it is a central part of a professional performance career. If you are rejected from this school, then it's probably because it's not right for you. Reset, adjust, and focus on your next audition.

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Excel – and not just with your performance. If you succeed with all of the above things on the list – you arrive prepared, on time, relaxed, knowing what you are going to do in your audition, and ready to accept audition rejection – then you will be regarded as a “pro”.

Courtesy and consideration. Make sure your behaviour at all times is mature and gracious. Be polite, remember people’s names, listen carefully, take direction. You will always leave a good impression if you are courteous, respectful and mature – that’s the kind of person that people want to work with.

Transform yourself. Can you do all of the things on this list? If not, you need to alter your mindset so that you can. If you react badly to rejection, you absolutely need to change that reaction. If you panic and are a slave to your nerves, you need to manipulate your mental state to turn it into positive performance energy.



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Things you should never say at an audition

“I messed up, can I start again?”

If you made a mistake, lost your place, had a coughing fit, then no problem – but if you want to start over again because you didn't like your performance, that's just not going to wash. They're on a schedule, and there's just no time for that. Most people think they didn't perform their best – so take that performance, and do better next time.

“I want to be a celebrity or Star” or “I want to be famous”

The audition panel will more than likely end the audition, and throw you out.

“Sorry I'm late, traffic was terrible”

No one cares why you were late – you shouldn't have been. Don't be late!

“I'm so nervous”

Of course you are. Everyone is, to some degree, however long they've been performing. But don't show them that you're struggling to handle the pressure, or you'll be discounted before you've even begun.

“The End” or “That's it!”

You've stopped performing. That's enough to indicate you're finished. Allow your performance to sink in with your audience, and give a silent nod to the casting director after that small pause. No need to panic.

“How did I do?”

This is the hallmark of an amateur. They're not here to give you performance notes, and they will let you know their decision in due course – and if you were great, you'll probably know by their reaction anyway.

Be the professional you want to be from start to finish, and it will shine through. PWA offer Audition only classes for those students that want professional preparation & advice.

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