Ole Miss Theatre - Audition Guidelines

Auditions are open to all University of Mississippi students with an overall GPA of 2.0 or higher, and to community members with approval of the casting directors. The following guidelines are intended to provide you with important information as you consider your audition.

Prior to Auditions

Find a copy of the script and read the play! If it's a musical, listen to the CD! Become familiar with the characters and the music. Directors generally have scripts available and may provide a brief synopsis of available roles.

Dress and Appearance

This is a job interview (of sorts) -- dress nicely.

- Select clothing that reinforces your confidence. It should be flattering and comfortable.
- Avoid bulky, loose clothing that might interfere with your movement and mask your physicality.
- Wear shoes that you are comfortable in – make sure they do not pull focus away from YOU!
- Your hair should be styled so we can see your face.

Initial Audition

You will be asked to complete an audition form that includes past stage experience and your schedule. During your audition, the directors will be considering you in the context of the play being cast -- make the best first impression you can. The director will be listening to your vocal quality, assessing your stage presence and projection, and observing your movement.

Audition Material

You are to use a prepared monologue and a song (if you wish to be considered for the musical).

Prepared Monologue Guidelines

- One-minute in length
- Select a monologue from a modern, published play.
- Choose a character with whom you identify.
- It should allow for vocal and emotional variety.
- It should allow for a variety of movement.
- Do not use self-written material; it generally does not give you an opportunity to portray a character and provides less dramatic impact than a proven play.
- Avoid excessive strong language and profanity.
**Prepared Song Guidelines**

- **One-minute in length**
- Chose a song that best suits your voice type and the show/character you are auditioning for.
- Bring sheet music in the key you sing it.
- Mark sheet music clearly for the accompanist (tempo changes, pauses, cuts, etc)
- Make sure your sheet music is presented either in a 3-hole-binder or mounted to a hard backing (ie a file folder). Please do not bring sheet music on loose sheets of paper or in a bound book of songs.

**Presentation:**

- "Prepared" means rehearsed and fully memorized.
- Performance energy and stage presence are important.
- Motivated movement during the audition is desirable.
- Avoid using props.
- Use standard stage English. Avoid accents and dialects.
- A single chair will be provided for you to use

**Callbacks**

Following the General Audition, the director will post a list of actors he/she would like to read/sing from the show. These lists will be posted on the front door of Fulton Chapel and on the Callboard, second floor of ISOM Hall. Directors callback actors based on the information from the audition form and on observations from the audition including but not limited to:

- Availability and compatibility of schedule.
- Vocal and physical characteristics.
- Stage presence and projection.
- Appropriateness for the character being cast.

**Dance Auditions**

Please arrive on time, dressed to dance/move, and physically warmed up. You will be taught 2-3 combinations (series of movements or dance steps) appropriate to the shows being case. You will be assessed on the following:

- Positive attitude and willingness to try
- Ability to reproduce the movements and styles taught
- Technique (training, alignment, etc)
- Rhythm

**Casting**

This is a highly subjective process involving artistic choices that are influenced by many factors including but not limited to:

- The factors listed above under Callbacks
- Compatibility with the ensemble in terms of physicality and interpersonal "chemistry."
- Demonstrated ability to take direction during callbacks.
- The artistic judgment of the director.