

AUDITION GUIDELINES

We recognise that auditioning for a part requires a lot of effort and courage, which is why we have put together the following guidelines for auditions.

Aim of the audition:

The aim of the audition is to ensure that the audition panel knows that you can sing and act the role, and that you meet the Director's expectations for the part. The audition panel will typically be made up of the Director, the Musical Director, and the Choreographer, with the assistance of at least one member of WAOS who is not seeking selection for a principal part. Remember that auditions are all about **your** potential.

Things that the audition panel will be looking out for:

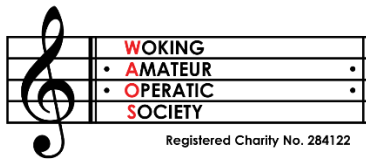
- Will you have the ability to develop the character fully, through mutual understanding of the character and the Director's vision?
- What will you bring to the role that is unique?
- Will you give a full commitment to a director, the cast and the show itself? You will be asked to declare your involvement in any other productions that may clash. Bear in mind that whilst you may think that you are capable of rehearsing for more than one production at a time, the audition panel must consider the impact this may have on other cast members if rehearsals have to be missed or the full commitment cannot be shown throughout the rehearsal process.
- How well will you fit in with the rest of the cast?

Before the audition:

A few weeks before auditions, the Director will hold an "introduction evening" in which the plot and characters of the show will be explained to you, as well as the Director's vision for the show and what is expected of the cast. Following this, there will be a few rehearsals prior to auditions in order to learn the audition songs. In order to familiarise yourself with the characters and songs, it is valuable to attend as many of these rehearsals as you can.

Preparation:

One of the hardest things to overcome with any audition is anxiety. There are many forms in which this might manifest itself but common signs are shaky hands, hyperventilating, overacting, and inflection rising at the end of each sentence. The best way to try to overcome this is to prepare yourself well in order that you feel as relaxed and comfortable as possible during your audition. Try to take some time to practise your delivery at home, paying particular attention to the following:

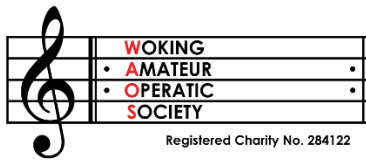


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- Develop characterisation and motivation for the character.
- Speak slowly and clearly with good articulation. Try reading aloud to your family, children, in front of a mirror, and projecting your voice e.g. from the top of the stairs.
- Try where possible to memorise audition pieces, as this will enable you to get into character and act out a piece more easily during the audition, rather than simply reading from the script.
- Familiarise yourself with the storyline in order to gain a better understanding of the character you are portraying.
- Ensure that you are familiar with any musical pieces you will be expected to perform. Again, try to add characterisation whilst performing these.

The audition:

- Try and arrive early for an audition in order to feel relaxed and to give yourself time to prepare. If you are going to be late on the day, due to unforeseen circumstances, try and contact one of the audition panel as soon as possible in order that the audition timetable can be re-organised if necessary.
- Wear clothing that you feel comfortable in.
- Do a few relaxation exercises before you are required.
- Ensure any papers that you use (libretto, score etc) are in the correct order.
- When you are called, be confident and happy with yourself. Smile and meet the Director's eyes in a genuine manner. Try not to walk with your head lowered.
- You can choose the order in which you perform the audition pieces. Be prepared to tell the audition panel your decision.
- Where appropriate, greet the accompanist and take a short time to indicate your needs.
- It is important for the audition panel to see your face, so try not to mask it with hair, hands, a script etc.
- Remain focused and intent on portraying the character you are playing particularly if you are in a two-person audition.
- Try not to be distracted by the reactions (or not!) of the audition panel.
- Use the acting area in an appropriate manner for the character you are portraying, and keep your own gestures in line with that character.
- Props can be distracting so only use the where absolutely necessary.
- Try to make good eye contact with your audience. If you are not comfortable with making eye contact, try looking just over the audience's head.
- You may be asked to perform your audition piece again in a slightly different way. Do not take this as an indication that you were "doing it wrong" the first time round.
- Try not to get flustered if you make a mistake. If you feel that you can continue as if nothing happened, do so, if not stop and ask the Director if you may begin again.
- Once the audition has finished, thank the audition panel and accompanist and try to walk out in the same positive manner in which you walked in.
- Try not to show your emotions if you feel that the audition went badly. If you have a genuine concern, speak to a member of the audition panel at an appropriate moment.



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Results of the audition:

The results of the audition will be posted onto the WAOS website as soon as possible after the decisions have been made. This may be delayed if further auditions are to be held, but we will always endeavour to publicise them in the quickest timeframe possible, as we know how nerve-wracking waiting for results can be!

We would ask that you are mindful and respectful of your fellow auditionees and cast members feelings and bear this in mind when posting any comments on social networks.

Important note: If you would like any feedback from your audition, please contact a member of the WAOS Committee.

We hope that you find the above guidelines useful and wish you all the very best for your upcoming audition.

If you any specific concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to approach any of the WAOS Committee for advice.

Break a leg!