AUDITIONS

Audition procedures for productions in the Central Theatre Department vary from time to time depending on the nature of the various productions being cast and on the needs of the directors. Specific procedures and information are provided in advance of each audition. Auditions are open to any student currently enrolled at Central.

Typically, the Department will audition all fall mainstage and studio theatre productions during the first couple of days of the Fall Semester. Auditions for all spring semester mainstage and studio theatre productions are held during the first couple of days of each spring semester. BlackBox productions hold auditions when needed throughout each semester. Central Missouri Repertory generally holds on campus auditions on the first or second Saturday in February.

Open Auditions-Cold Readings
The basic procedure most often used is an open audition with cold readings. In this situation the play or plays to be auditioned are announced and scripts are usually made available for students to read before the audition. Often the director provides other information at this time in an effort to clarify the procedure. Specific audition scenes or pages that will be used may be announced, short character sketches may be presented, plot and style descriptions may be provided. At the auditions, after introductory remarks by the director or directors about the productions and about audition procedures, students are assigned a character in small groups and given specific pages to read. The group is allowed to go off and read over the selection a few times and then returns and performs the material for the directors and all others who are auditioning. The director continues assigning students different characters and passages to read in different groupings until the time for the session expires. There is usually a minimum of two nights utilized for the mainstage and studio theatre auditions and students are urged to attend both nights.

Prepared Monologues and Songs
The second type of audition often utilized is prepared monologues or songs. In this type of audition, the student will prepare a two minute monologue, and in the case of a musical audition, 16-32 bars of music from a prepared piece. The student generally signs up for an audition slot and during that time, presents their prepared piece to the director or directors. Typically there is not an audience of students watching these auditions. These auditions are generally followed by a day of cold reading auditions.

Callbacks
A director may choose to have callbacks for a production. A callback would include a list of students that the director would like to hear read again or read for specific parts. If a student is not called back for a production, it does not mean that they have not been cast. The callback is simply an opportunity for the director to have additional readings with a select number of actors.
Audition Information Sheets
At most of the auditions, the director will provide the student with an information sheet. This sheet might include plot & character or scene descriptions.

Cast Lists
Cast lists are posted as soon as possible following each audition process. The lists are posted on the Callboard outside the Theatre Office and may also be posted on the Theatre Department website. Students are always asked to initial that they have seen the posting. When there are multiple productions being cast, the student should make sure they have seen all cast lists.

Some Procedures Regarding Auditions
1. Scholarship students should plan to audition for all productions.
2. Students should make sure they are well prepared for the audition.
3. Make sure that you have read the plays that are being auditioned. Perusal scripts for the scheduled shows will generally be available in the office on an overnight check out basis.
4. If auditioning for a musical, make sure that your music is clearly marked for the accompanist. If auditioning with a tape or cd, make sure the quality is good. You should not plan to sing acapella; this does not showcase your talents well.
5. Arrive at least fifteen minutes before your scheduled audition time.
6. It is understood that theatre students will accept roles as cast.
7. Make sure that you build a portfolio of a variety and number of audition pieces. Once you have used a piece for an audition at Central, it is highly advised that you do not use the piece again for an audition in the department. The directors want to see what other material and talents you have to offer.
8. Consult with the faculty about the selection of material and the appropriateness of that material for a particular audition.
9. Remember, you are auditioning for a specific role for yourself. However, the director is trying to cast an ensemble of actors. The director is looking at the larger picture.
10. Do not try to second-guess the director during the audition process. Approach every reading with enthusiasm, creativity and professionalism.
11. If dance auditions are required, make sure you bring clothes and shoes that you can move in.
12. You should always dress professionally for the audition.
REHEARSAL POLICIES

1. Be on time (15 minutes early) for all rehearsals.
2. Sign in on callboard when arriving for technical rehearsals and performance.
3. Bring a pencil to all rehearsals.
4. Take clear notes on blocking (movement, business, timing, etc.).
5. Memorize lines ASAP-outside of rehearsal.
6. Keep a detailed rehearsal journal.
7. Come to rehearsal prepared to work with creative energy and ideas. Remember the Director is fundamentally interested in releasing an Actors' creativity--helping them toward a "best" performance. As a result, the Director expects the Actor to engage in a vital, creative exchange of ideas.
8. Remain quiet and focused in the rehearsal space when not working on stage.
9. No food or drink is allowed in the theatre, onstage, or in the lobby.
10. Do not play with any props or backstage equipment.
11. Unless otherwise instructed, always return a prop to the props table when you are finished with it.
12. When receiving line notes or notes from the Production team, always write the notes down and thank the individual for the note received.
13. When sitting in the Highlander Theatre, remember to keep your feet off the backs of the seats.
14. Check with Stage Manager before leaving rehearsal.
15. Treat rehearsal costumes and properties with respect.
16. Treat all theater artists with respect.
17. Follow supervisory instructions of the Director, Assistant Director, and Stage Manager.
18. The Stage Manager or Assistant Director is responsible for running the rehearsal.
19. Help new members of the company become familiar with the traditions and customs of the Central Theatre Department.
20. Budget time well. (Company members will not be excused from other academic work because of production responsibilities.)
22. Take care of your vocal and physical instrument. (i.e.: maintain a schedule/diet that provides for adequate sleep, nutrition, and health).
23. Maintain a clean and healthy body. Good personal hygiene is necessary when working closely with others during rehearsal and performance.
24. You are part of the collaborative team. Work to make the process go forward.