

Contents

Acknowledgments	1
Introduction	3
To the Young Actor	3
To Teachers and Coaches	5
Chapter One	
The Fundamentals — <i>“Gimme attitude!”</i>	9
Motivation and Self-Respect	9
The Fun of Competition	10
The Need for Constant Training	13
Life After Acting	14
Chapter Two	
School Days — <i>“Beam me up, Scotty”</i>	19
Back Where You Belong	19
Complacency Is the Kiss of Death	21
Getting Your Act Together	22
Get Involved in Stage Work	26
Learn to Take Criticism (and Never Apologize)	28
The Actor’s Journal	35
Review and Reflection	39
Chapter Three	
The Auditions Context — <i>“O brave new world!”</i>	43
The High School Auditions Context	43
What You Can Expect in Community Theatre Auditions ...	48
What You Can Expect in College and University Auditions	51
What You Can Expect in ACTF and URTA Auditions	55
What You Can Expect in Auditions for Regional Theatre ...	58
Review and Reflection	67
Chapter Four	
Background Skills — <i>“Cut to the chase!”</i>	71
Getting the Self-Image Straight	71
Getting the Voice in Shape	80

Getting the Body in Shape	88
Review and Reflection	96

Chapter Five

Selecting Material — <i>“Words, words, words”</i>	99
Suitability and Appropriateness	99
Review and Reflection	121

Chapter Six

Preparing the Audition — <i>“No excuses, please!”</i>	123
Work on Your Own	123
Preparing Your Script	124
Paraphrasing	125
Goals, Obstacles, and Actions	138
Vocal Rehearsals	145
Movement Rehearsals	149
Working with a Coach	156
Review and Reflection	159

Chapter Seven

Performing the Audition — <i>“Your little nugget”</i>	161
Staying Fresh or Going Stale	161
Arrival and Preparation	164
The Audition Performance	167
The Afterglow	171
Review and Reflection	175

Chapter Eight

Cold Readings — <i>“The chips are down”</i>	177
What Is the Cold Reading?	177
Preparing for Cold Readings	180
Performing Cold Readings	183
Callbacks and Interviews	196
The Wrap	203
Review and Reflection	203

Chapter Nine

Musical Theatre Auditions — <i>“Get the leg up”</i>	207
The Allure of the Musical	207
Building a Healthy Attitude	209

Problems with Musical Auditions	212
Selecting the Song	219
Rehearsing the Song	223
Staging Points for Singing Auditions	230
Review and Reflection	231
 Chapter Ten	
Supporting Materials — “The paper chase”	233
Developing Your Acting Resume	233
Developing Your Photo Materials	239
Related Supporting Materials: Show Photos, Reviews, Testimonials, Cover Letters, and Post Cards	243
The Audition Wardrobe	245
Review and Reflection	248
 Chapter Eleven	
Auditions and the Computer — “Get wired!”	251
Actors and Computers	251
Correspondence and Networking	252
Industry News	255
Background Resources	257
Job Information	260
Computer Savvy	262
Review and Reflection	266
 Appendix A	
Scenes and Monologs for Class Work	269
 Appendix B	
Selected Auditioning Resources	274
 Appendix C	
Supporting Materials for Media Acting	283
 Appendix D	
Auditioning for Colleges, College Scholarships, and Graduate Schools	291
 About the Author	 295