Tips for Preparing an Audition

In Advance:

1) Don’t wade in, jump in!
2) Memorize the monologue, memorize the monologue!
3) Think of the audition as an opportunity to show your skills rather than a root canal. Enjoy the exercise, and don’t lead the auditors to believe that you are in physical pain.
4) Make certain that you know the meaning of each word – if not, ask us.
5) Decide
   a. Who – Who is your character? What is their age? To whom are you speaking?
   b. What – What happened just before the monologue began to cause this person to say these things?
   c. Where – Where are you?
   d. Why – Why bother doing this monologue? What makes it important?
6) Prepare physical characteristics
   a. Practice saying the monologue in the mirror out loud.
   b. Develop physical traits (i.e., how this person walks, talks, moves)
   c. Rehearse maintaining eye contact.
   Avoid:
   • Making the staff paranoid by looking behind our heads
   • The typewriter scan
   • Looking at the floor
   • Hyper stare
   d. Wear clothes that are comfortable and fit, not something that you can’t move in or 4” heels. It would be terrible if you tripped, unless of course – it was planned.
7) Delivery
   a. Remember that you are telling a story that is very important. You are a storyteller. If you think the story is boring, we will really think it is boring. What you are saying has to be very important to you – urgent, if you will. This makes people want to listen to what you have to say. Pretend it is the biggest and most shocking secret you have ever known.
   b. Speak loud and articulate.
   Avoid:
   • The mumble
   • The speed freak – talking so fast that you whiz through
   • Adlibbing
   c. Avoid the most common movement actor traps
   • Swaying, dancing, pacing, wringing hands, jingling your change.
   d. Make movement relevant to the plot.
   e. If you make a mistake, keep going; they don’t know the difference. Just press forward and act like you planned the mistake. They will never know.
   f. Remember that you are trying your best, and that’s all that an auditor expects.