COLLEGE AUDITION PROCESS
PRESCREEN TIPS: ACTING for the CAMERA

The information provided below will help you successfully apply to undergraduate theatre programs, particularly regarding the pre-screen audition. NOTE: As school requirements vary, be sure to submit *exactly* what the college is asking in order to get that in-person audition!

START:

- Research (BA vs. BFA)
- Set up interviews
- Visit school
- Talk to students in program

ORGANIZE:

- Excel sheet with
  - College names
  - Deadlines
    - School
    - Theatre Program
    - Prescreen
    - Audition

PREPARE MATERIAL:

- Monologues
  - Read plays
  - Select with teacher, coach
    - Follow college instructions
    - Cut to meet time/length (e.g. 90, 60, 30 seconds)
  - Workshop with teacher, coach
  - Practice in a variety of spaces, e.g.
    - Classroom
    - Stage
    - Living Room
    - Outside
    - Etc. (varying size of space)

- Songs
  - Select with teacher, coach
    - Follow college instructions
  - Rehearse
    - Accompanist
    - Recorded instrumental track
  - Multiple Takes
    - Follow college instructions

COLLEGE AUDITION PROCESS
PRESCREEN TIPS: ACTING for the CAMERA

- Dance
  - Select piece with teacher, coach
    - Follow college instructions
  - Rehearse
    - Smooth surface
    - Clothes, footwear – easy to move in
  - Multiple Takes
    - Follow college instructions

- Wild Card
  - Do it – prepare it
  - Show a unique talent
  - Be yourself
  - Explore different editing opportunities

PREPARE SPACE:

- Clear space of distractions
- Backdrop
  - Neutral Color
    - Wall (without pictures, décor, mirrors)
    - Screen
    - Sheet (dark blue or grey; must lie flat)
- No back light
  - Steer clear of windows
  - Watch out for glare

PREPARE YOU:

- Warm-up
  - Physically
  - Vocally
- Clothes
  - Neutral, flattering, focus on face
  - Avoid distracting jewelry
  - Comfortable, flattering

CAMERA:

- Tripod vs. Camera-person
- Ring light(s) or lighting kit
- Frame according to piece (e.g. close-up, three quarter, full body)

COLLEGE AUDITION PROCESS
PRESCREEN TIPS: ACTING for the CAMERA

    - Follow college instructions
- Use multiple cameras (if possible)
    - Vary shots (e.g. zoom-in, zoom-out, etc.)

SLATE:

- Look directly into the camera
- Follow school's directions re: name, title of monologue
- Transition (e.g. look down)
- Find the person you're speaking to
    - Look slightly towards the left or right of the lens
    - Not profile

PERFORM:

- Go for it!
- Use your body, not just your hands
- Film in one take
- Hold the moment when done
- Say "thank you" and smile

POST-PRODUCTION

- Follow school instructions
    - Edit only wildcard – be creative!
- Reshoot if not your best
- Submit on time

BREAK A LEG!