

Amherst Community Theater Audition Survival Guide

Auditioning for a show is a brave thing to do.

Amherst Community Theater works hard to create an audition process that is welcoming, respectful, and thoughtfully organized. At the same time, our auditions are rigorous. We take them very seriously. They can feel intense. You may be asked to sing, read with other actors, dance, or try something unexpected. There may be moments when you feel nervous or stretched beyond your comfort zone.

That's okay. In fact, it's part of the process.

Whether this is your first audition or your fiftieth, standing up in front of other people and asking to be considered for a role requires vulnerability and courage. It asks you to share something personal—your voice, your imagination, your artistry, your talents—and trust that it will be received with care.

Auditions aren't simply about showing what you already know how to do, auditions are also about discovering possibilities, taking risks, and giving the casting team the information they need to imagine how a company of actors might come together. We ask a great deal of our auditioners because we're building an ensemble, not simply filling individual roles.

Our casting team carefully considers talent, preparation, chemistry between performers, vocal and acting strengths, movement, and the unique needs and story of this particular production. Every show is different. A performer who isn't the right fit for one production may be exactly the person we're looking for the next time. Casting decisions are never a measure of someone's worth or potential.

If you aren't cast this time, we sincerely hope you'll come back and audition for a future production. For every show, however, we welcome people (cast or not) to join our community of volunteers at our set shop and costume shop.

Many Amherst Community Theater performers were not cast in their first audition—or even every audition they've attended prior. Every production presents new artistic challenges, different characters, and different ensemble needs. The only audition that guarantees you won't be cast is the one you don't attend.

For parents and caregivers, it's important to note that auditions can be emotional too. One of the greatest gifts you can give a young performer is helping them see that courage isn't measured by the outcome—it's measured by the willingness to try. Celebrate the preparation, the resilience, and the bravery it took to walk into the room. Those are accomplishments that no casting decision can take away.

One of our goals as a community theater company is to create and strengthen community. We encourage anyone with questions or concerns about the audition process to reach out directly to our producer. We also ask everyone to remember that public criticism—particularly on social media—can unintentionally diminish the accomplishments of those who were cast and discourage others from taking the same brave step in the future.

Thank you for choosing to put yourself out there. Whether this audition leads to a role in this production or simply to more confidence for the next one, we hope you'll leave knowing you've done something worthwhile.

Good luck at auditions!

The Amherst Community Theater Board of Directors