

Thank you for choosing InterACT Studio as a place for your child to grow and develop as a young artist. While the students enrolled will have a great time, it will take hard work outside of class to really prepare and be at their best for any upcoming audition.

We'd like to take a few minutes to discuss our plan for effective audition preparation. First of all, it is important that your child knows that you have confidence in InterACT Studio to assess their strengths and weaknesses and to work to prepare them to the best of their ability.

It's an audition. Keep in mind that what we will be working on is an *audition*, not a performance. Judges and Casting Directors look for young actors who have a theatrical sensibility and demonstrate the *potential* to grow as a theatre artist. Our goal is to help them find their way to presenting an honest audition that lets others know that they have the know-how to analyze a script, build a character, rehearse a monologue and intelligently discuss the choices they made.

Monologue selection. You have to kiss a lot of frogs, as they say, before you find a prince. The same may be said about finding the right monologue. A monologue does not have to be funny or serious, brand new or well known. It has to be *right* for the actor who is auditioning. Your coach may give your child a monologue that she doesn't like at first glance. Still, it is very important that she takes that monologue, works on it to the best of her ability, and comes back to class prepared. Part of the process is assessing the young student so that we can find the best material. It also tells them and us something about their commitment and work ethic.

Memorization. The reality is that most any school-age child is capable of memorizing a one-minute monologue in a day. Until a piece is fully memorized (not just so that it can be recited but *interpreted*) we can't really begin to work on the piece; to coach, to analyze, to understand, to really begin to prepare. Once a monologue is given to a student he should work at least 20 minutes a day and come back the next week confident that he is ready to meet the challenge of the work in class.

Outside help. This class is designed to allow ample time and effort to prepare for the all-important audition. Please refrain from coaching or directing at home and avoid approaching other well-meaning friends, family or even teachers to seek their opinions. It can be very confusing to children, who want so much to please or do the right thing for adults, to be given conflicting direction. It *is* fine to encourage them to rehearse in front of you and others, but avoid *any* critical comments. "Speak up," "Use your hands more," and "I think you should do it this way," approach any acting problem or choice from the outside. If anything, play the role of a psychologist and ask questions such as "Why do you think he feels that way?" or "How would you react if this happened to you." The goal is to let the young actor figure it out themselves from an informed perspective.

Private coaching. As we get closer to the audition, your child will receive some individual coaching during class time while the class assistant conducts rehearsal or theatre exercises. If you or your child feels that they might feel better having additional coaching outside of class, please contact your instructor directly to work out a time. Private coaching is \$60 per hour payable to InterACT Studio. Some students prefer to share an hour with another student and, schedules permitting, coachings can be prorated for 30- and 45-minute sessions.

Missed classes. If you know you will have to miss a class, try to inform us but make plans to attend another class that same week. If it is unexpected, you are welcome to attend an additional class the next week.

Pick-up and Drop-off. Classes begin and end on time. We use all of our space and therefore can't accommodate parents and siblings waiting inside. The class assistant will be outside to greet students as they are dropped off a few minutes before class. Late students are asked to enter quietly. Likewise, at the end of class all students will be escorted outside for pick-up. If you are late picking up, your child will be waiting inside. Again, classes begin and end on time.

Be prepared. It is fine to bring a water bottle to classes but please, no food or soft drinks/juices. A small notebook for notes, your monologue and handouts is a good idea. It might be wise to keep a copy of your monologue at home, in the backpack, and in any vehicle that brings you to class. Remember: we meet on the days that Palm Beach County Schools meet, including early-release days. The few exceptions will be posted in the studio, given to you as a handout and posted on our website.

Communication. If you have any specific questions or concerns, please call or e-mail. Your instructors, while at the studio, need to be with the students during class time.

We will also give you an honest assessment about your child's preparedness for the audition to help you decide how to proceed with regard to any options you may have prior to the audition.

Thank you again for entrusting us with your young artist! We look forward to hard work and good fun.

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