



FROZEN AUDITION PACKET

Welcome to the Frozen auditions at Elefante School for the Performing Arts!

We're so glad that you're interested in being a part of our popular Elefante Spring Musical!

Some of you may already be very familiar with the audition process. Some of you might be experiencing your first audition. Either way, we're here to help you prepare.

On the following pages you'll find everything that you need to know about auditioning for this show, such as:

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Vocal Audition Tips

- 1) A musical theater vocal audition is NOT “American Idol”. This is an audition, not a “sing-off”. It’s all about storytelling. The directors aren’t so much listening to voices as looking for who can tell a story with their voice, face, body, and unique personality.
- 2) The directors have a problem. They need to put together a big puzzle and find just the right pieces to put it together best. They are not there to “judge” you – they are really, really hoping that you’ll be the right fit for one of the puzzle pieces. Your job is to help the directors solve their problem, so there’s no need for you to be nervous! If you’re nervous anyway, “hide” behind the character. Remember that it’s not “you” up there; it’s your character. Never “break character”, no matter what happens. Make a strong, active choice for your character, and play it fully.
- 3) Many singers tend to rush and/or alter pitch when nervous. Relax, *listen*, and allow yourself to truly hear the key and tempo on the backing track. The musical accompaniment is your performance partner. Sing *with* it; not *against* it.
- 4) Be aware of what your body is doing. If your eyes, face, and body don’t tell the same story that your words are telling, the audience isn’t going to receive a clear message. Our brains process pictures before they process words, so if your hands are busy doing something unrelated to the song (for instance: tugging at the bottom of your shirt), the audience is going to think your song is about something else (a shirt), no matter what words you’re singing!
- 5) Use clear diction. We need to understand every word that you sing. Stand up tall and *sing loudly and clearly* enough to be heard from way across the room, but don’t scream.
- 6) When you are singing, *you shouldn’t look at anyone in the room -- especially not the director*. You should look past the director at a spot on the wall that is at your eye level. Pretend that spot is a close friend to whom you are telling your story. “The eyes are the window to the soul.” Make sure your eyes are expressing your character's thoughts and not looking around the room or glazing over with a vacant expression.
- 7) You do not *have to* memorize the song selection – we can have the words up on a music stand if you absolutely need them – but *it will be GREATLY to your advantage if you DO memorize the words* and can focus on telling the story. Even if you don’t have the song memorized, don’t spend your time staring at the words. Instead, only look at the words if/when you forget them.
- 8) If you are very young and are not really reading yet – don’t worry! We’ll work with you and “feed” you the words as you go along. But do try to see how much you can memorize at home BEFORE the audition!



Dance Audition Hints

Wear shoes that you can dance in; jazz shoes or sneakers. Never wear boots, crocs, flip flops, or similar footwear to dance. Don't dance in your socks. Safety first!

The choreographer will teach you a small routine that you will learn in groups. Don't panic if you miss some steps, put your feet in the wrong place, or forget what to do with your hands. Even very polished dancers miss steps sometimes. No one expects perfection. However, when you miss something, it is important that you keep smiling and keep going (again -- staying in character is *vital* in an audition)! Never point out your mistakes by breaking character to comment or apologize in the middle of your audition. A big smile and an air of confidence can hide a multitude of mistakes. Even if you do the steps perfectly, if you are not expressive, or if you look like you're really concentrating hard on dance steps instead of portraying the mood of the character, casting priority may lean toward someone who dances as a believable character, even if their dance steps aren't as exact as yours.

Make sure that you are standing in a place where you can see and be seen when the choreographer is teaching the steps. Frequently, people uncomfortable with dance try to hide in the back. It doesn't work. The point is not to hide, but to show what you can do!

Callbacks

During the auditions themselves, we may call on some students to do more (sing again, dance again, read from the script, etc.). That is why we ask that all students stay for the entire length of the audition block, even if they've already auditioned. In addition, we may call some students back for a separate appointment to sing, dance, or read other materials that we will teach them at the time. You will receive an email if you are needed for a separate appointment, which will be on Wednesday, January 15th starting at 5:45. If you are not asked to do more on audition day and/or are not called for a separate appointment on 1/15, that doesn't necessarily mean that you aren't being considered for a given role; it just means that we've seen all that we need to see from you to make our decision.

The directors may give you advice about how to sing a certain phrase, or how to read a scene. If that happens, *please* try to incorporate the suggestions into your performance. Don't do the same thing that you did before; change your performance to incorporate the directors' instructions. Everyone will notice how well you take direction, and that has a huge impact on whether a person gets cast.



Casting

As stated on p.2, casting a show is like assembling a large jigsaw puzzle. If you are not cast in the show, that DOES NOT mean that your audition performance was not of a good quality. It simply means that there wasn't a good fit for you in this particular show. The "fit" decision usually has little to do with anything under your control. We may simply have had too many actors of the same age, vocal range, etc. Please don't take it personally if you aren't cast.

Please also note that most often decisions not to cast a student are made based on the student's ability to listen, follow directions, perform with energy, and similar factors. Sometimes students, particularly the youngest ones, are not yet ready to apply the focus, patience, liveliness, and positive attitude that rehearsing a musical demands of performers.

Remember that the creative team is looking at your behavior for the entire audition workshop and audition process. ALWAYS avoid doing things like talking when the adults are talking or behaving in a disruptive or disrespectful manner. ALWAYS be supportive of your fellow performer. We have a zero-tolerance policy for meanness.

All auditioning students will be notified after the callback date as to whether or not they have been cast in the show.

Importance of Ensemble

We selected FROZEN Jr. because there is a lot for the ENSEMBLE to do. Some actors cast in named roles may also double as ENSEMBLE. There are solos and acting "bits", and sometimes even small roles that we will cast from the ENSEMBLE as we enter the rehearsal process.

Similarly, if you auditioned hoping to be given a certain role and you are cast with a different role, that means that the directors needed you most in the role in which you were cast. Again, remember that the ENSEMBLE is considered a role. Ask any student who has ever been in our ENSEMBLE -- they've had a BLAST, learned a lot, and were a big part of the show!

If you audition for the show, it is understood that you are committed to being on the team and will accept whatever role you are given. Please honor that commitment.



Class Tuition

Our Audition Workshop is free of charge, and there is no audition fee. If your student is cast in Frozen, you will be contacted regarding payment at that time. Payment in full is due prior to the first rehearsal on January 22, 2020.

If your student is cast in Frozen, class tuition is \$575. That tuition includes costumes, tickets to the show, and all rehearsals over the 6-month period listed above.

Conflicts

We know that kids are busy and conflicts happen, but we do require a full commitment from each and every cast member, and we need to know all conflicts upfront in order to plan our rehearsals.

When you filled out and submitted the Frozen Workshop/Audition registration form, you reviewed the full rehearsal calendar and listed your conflicts for the rehearsal period (you can find a link to the calendar [here](#)). We don't have a "spring break" at Elefante because all the schools in the area break at different times, BUT, we allow for one spring break "out" per student. It becomes difficult for us to allow more "outs" than the one per cast member. If you listed more than one "out" on your conflict form, we may contact you to discuss your conflicts prior to casting you in the production.

Obviously, *if you can't make it to the dress rehearsals or performances, you will not be cast in the show*, but you're welcome to take the audition workshop just for the experience. If you do find that you have too many conflicts to do the show, please consider taking one of our many terrific spring semester classes, including the fantastic "FROZEN Extravaganza!" class, which is non-auditioned!

Enjoy the audition process -- and BREAK A LEG!