



B STREET CONSERVATORY
AUDITION CLASS WITH TARA SISSOM



Book It!

Audition Class, Summer Conservatory

Prepared by: Tara Sissom

CLASS DESCRIPTION

Book It! Audition Class

You have to audition to get work. You only have one shot, sometimes only one minute to convince them you're perfect! How do you book it? This is an 8 week course devoted to helping you master the art of the audition, expose you to several mock audition scenarios, and perfect your audition monologue. By the end of the course you will have at least 1 polished and performed monologue, have at least 5 new audition pieces including a self written piece; feedback from course instructor and class as well as any video or recording for on-camera mock auctions in class to add to your portfolio or websites.**

If you're trying to break into the business, or just haven't been booking projects lately this is the class for you. You'll receive individual consultation on your perfect audition "look", headshots, resumè layout, also what parts to look for, and where to find casting notices! As a class we'll audition with and for each other, with half of the course devoted to mock auditions. You will feel more confident and comfortable auditioning if you perfect your audition package, and this class will help you do just that!

THE COURSE

Day 1: Perception & Type

Go over syllabus and course outline, expectations and materials, as well as a list of terms used in auditions

Game: How am I perceived? A non verbal introduction and group comment on type.

Improving our perception, let your best self SHINE and show it from the moment you enter the room. Using : the SHINE method. (Smile. Handshake. "I am...". Nod. Exit.)

We will classify the general types in plays, movies, tv, commercials etc, and then categorize ourselves on likelihood of type with a provided rubric.

Hw: select & memorize a **new!** contemporary monologue (after 1950) 1 min or less, dress for the audition

Day 2: Monologue Round 1

Warm ups with light body movement, breathing techniques and vocal tuning.

Present 1 min or less contemporary monologue in audition wardrobe

Notes after each monologue on overall audition, material selection, appearance, performance and hire-ability

Game: Status Game with a deck of cards.

Hw: Take notes and adjustments from performance and rehearse to represent, also make adjustments to audition outfit if necessary

Day 3: Monologue Round Two

Warmups

Present homework with notes afterward wearing any audition outfit adjustments if necessary.

Game: Improvising with props on the spot.

Hw: Prepare and print your Headshot & Resume

Day 4: Cold Reads (1st Mock Audition)

The beginning of the class will be run like an audition

Sides will be provided for cold read auditions in pairs or alone, notes will follow

Evaluation of H&R, notes to follow

Game: 2 Truths, 1 Lie

Hw: Prepare for next weeks audition with sides* provided, notes on Resume if necessary

Day 5: Callbacks (2nd Mock Audition)

The beginning of class will be run like an audition with pairs of students auditioning with the same scene, bringing in updated resumes if need be, notes will follow.

Game: silent status postcards

Hw: Magazine for your type/VO demo reel

Day 6: On Camera (3rd Mock Audition)

The beginning of this class will run like an on camera audition, presentation of HW with magazine character and copy on camera, notes will follow

Game: on camera Improv games: character gauntlet, props

Hw: write a 90sec monologue for another character in the magazine, or elevate your original character with a dramatic circumstance

Day 7: Self Written (4th Mock Audition)

The beginning of this class will run like an audition, presentation of HW 90sec monologues from the magazine

Game: Improvising in pairs, in character with our magazine personas with suggested scene parameters

Uploaded, we look at the on camera auditions. Group feedback to follow.

HW: rehearse original class monologue for final presentation

Day 8: Monologue Round Three

This final class will be a presentation of our monologues after light warmups

Each student will receive 3 new monologues* chosen for them by the instructor

Written Game: self perception

Final thoughts and evaluation & anonymous, voluntary class exit survey

*any piece selected by the instructor for in class or future use will be based on your type and is subject to vary by student.

** you will receive a private YouTube video link via email for any on-camera work to copy and use for your own review or to display on any other accounts or websites. These will need to be transferred if you wish to keep them or make them public. These videos will be deleted off the private YouTube server 30 days after the final class. If you need help ripping YouTube video content the instructor will provide tools. B street theatre will never post these videos without your consent, and is not responsible for making them live, searchable YouTube videos.

SUGGESTED READING

Instructor will teach out of, provide handouts from, and encourages purchasing the following resources:

"Audition: Everything an Actor Needs to Know to Get the Part" by Michael Shurtleff

"How to Get the Part Without Falling Apart" by Margie Haber

The 2016 Los Angeles Call Sheet (formerly the Ross Report) available in print from Samuel French or the Drama Book Shop NYC

EXTERNAL RESOURCES

reproductions.com high quality professional headshot printing \$\$

printplace.com high quality professional business & post card printing \$

actorsequity.org listing for all professional theatre auditions nationwide

backstage.com the biggest online(and in print)nationwide casting site

samuelfrench.com dramatists.com dramabookshop.com best resources for new plays

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Tara Sissom received a BFA in Musical Theatre from Elon University in 2007, but has been auditioning for 25 years and has worked in professional theatre across the country for over 13 years. An acting ensemble member of B Street Theatre and The New Colony (Chicago), Tara has additional acting work experience in TV Commercials, Film, Voice Over, Web Videos and Music Videos. Combined with a decade of experience in building theatre and actor websites, theatrical marketing, photo editing and layout, a Minor in Graphic Design and a penchant for snazzy business cards, Tara is ready to give your acting as well as your audition materials a professional face lift!

(For B Street Use Only! Below line)



ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Instructor needs access to printer for student monologue and scene printing, for 3 class days
- Instructor will need access to B Street Theatre YouTube account (or permission to make a b street conservatory account), solely to make private video links (THAT WILL NEVER BE MADE PUBLIC) to share on-camera auditions in emailed links to students for review and personal use. Request to host these videos for 30 days after the last class.
- Access to classroom, preferably B2 or Lathrop
- Class max size 18