

## **I Got An Audition! Now What?**

Start preparing for your audition now. You have 90 seconds to present 2 pieces, a song and a monologue or two contrasting monologues. It doesn't seem like very much time, but think of how fast we register our first impressions socially. It's the same in auditions and it's absolutely true that we know if you "have it" or not within the first phrase you sing - or speak. So how do you get called back at StrawHat?

### **PRACTICE! PRACTICE! PRACTICE!**

Find a stopwatch or a clock with a sweep second hand. Edit your audition selections and run them over and over again. The more you rehearse your pieces back to back - just as you'll present them - the more comfortable you'll become. **REHEARSE YOUR INTRODUCTION** (we call it your "slate") and run it along with your pieces in rehearsal:

"Hi, I'm Susie Q, 10:45. I'll be doing 'I Cain't Say No' and a speech from Vanities."

**OR**

"Hello, I'm John Smith and my time is 3:32. My pieces are from Doubt and Irma Vep."

### **RUN YOUR PIECES**

Then say, "Thank you, I'm John Smith, 3:32."

- If you don't rehearse your intro, you may stumble over the words - that could throw you enough that you're less confident in your presentation.
- If you don't time your rehearsals, you can't possibly be sure that you'll come in under 90 seconds.

### **IF YOU GO OVER TIME, WE WILL CUT YOU OFF**

as graciously as possible, but it will happen if necessary.

### **How Do You Make the Most of the Time You Have?**

- Figure out the very least you need for your start on your song - Ideally a single bell-tone or a two-bar vamp. That takes none of your time and gives an impression of efficiency and professionalism. If your intro goes more than four bars, the stage managers reserve the right to start the clock.
- There is an "X" in the 'hot spot' Downstage Center. The light is best there - so start there and end there. You are free to use the stage as you wish, but show yourself to advantage – don't audition in the dark!
- There is a chair Upstage Center, should you wish to use one. If you bring it downstage, then you must strike it back to its upstage position. **PRACTICE! PRACTICE! PRACTICE!** moving the chair DS before or during your intro, then striking it back US after your "thank you."

**For more details about audition preparation, be sure to read our  
"Final Prep for Auditioning Actors"**

*See you at the Auditions!*