

A beginners guide to auditioning with **theatrical.**

Theatrical is a welcoming and inclusive theatre company. While we have a lot of very talented performers audition to be in our shows, we also welcome first timers.

This Beginners Guide is designed to help make your first audition with Theatrical (or even your first ever audition) a very positive experience, no matter the outcome.

What does Theatrical expect from cast members:

- Always being respectful to every member of the Theatrical team
- Arrive to each rehearsal and performance a few minutes early so that you are ready to start at your call time
- Learn all of your parts (dialogue, music and choreography) which includes taking notes at rehearsals and practicing at home as needed
- Following the direction of the production team

How much does it cost to be in a Theatrical show?

We do not charge our cast a “show fee” or a “membership fee”. If you are given a hard copy libretto (script) you will be required to pay a \$70 deposit, which is refunded to you at the end of the season so long as the libretto is returned to us without any marks or damage.

Also, each cast member is expected to supply their own shoes and makeup.

How to book an audition?

Our online booking form is available on our website (theatrical.com.au/auditions).

The first thing you should do is read the Audition Brief. This sets out some general information about the show, the audition requirements, a list of characters and a brief description of each one as well as a schedule of rehearsals and performances.

What information will I need to provide in the audition form?

- Your name and contact details
- Your preferred audition time
- Your past performing experience. This where you get to tell us about concerts, school productions or other performing that you have done (it's ok if you haven't had any past experience, it's just good for us to know)
- Any existing commitments you might have during the rehearsal period

What happens after I submit the audition form?

You will get an automatic email confirming that we have received your submission. Then within a few days a member of our production team will contact you to confirm your audition time. We always try to give you a time within the preferred time bracket that you nominated, but sometimes we have to give you a different time.

We will ask you to confirm the time that we have sent you. Then your audition booking is confirmed.

What do you do with the information I give you in the audition form?

We use the information as well as your audition to help us get to know you as a performer. We will also add your email address to our contact list so we can let you know about future audition opportunities as well as details of our upcoming shows. You are free to unsubscribe from the contact list anytime, if you want to.

Also, we promise to never give or sell your information to anyone else and always keep the information you send us as confidential.

What if I can't make any of the audition times on the booking form?

We offer a variety of audition times – weekdays and weekends, daytime and evenings – to cater to as many people as possible. Some sessions are more popular than others and we try to make as many available as we can.

If the time that you were hoping for is already booked out you can contact our production team by email (prod@theatrical.com.au) and ask to be put on the waiting list. If someone else cancels their booking we will contact people in the order they registered on the waiting list.

I have booked an audition but I can't make it anymore. What should I do?

As soon as you know you can't make it, please email prod@theatrical.com.au (so we can give the time slot to someone on the waiting list). If you would like to book a different time you can mention that in your email and we will reschedule your audition if there are still spaces available.

I am not going to be available for the dance audition or the callback. Can I still audition?

If you know that you won't be available for the dance audition and/or callbacks please let us know in your audition form. Depending on the role that you are auditioning for we may be able to work around your availability.

I am not going to be available for every rehearsal because of an existing commitment. Can I still be in the show?

We understand that you may have other commitments before you join our cast. However, cast members need to be available to learn and practice their part in the show. It will be very difficult to perform your part well if you are away for too many rehearsals.

Please list your unavailable dates in your audition form and the production team will discuss the schedule with you during your audition.

I am not going to be available for all of the performances. Can I still be in the show?

All cast members need to be at all performances as well as technical and dress rehearsals. If you are unavailable for every performance you will not be offered a role in the show.

What do I wear and what do I bring?

Be comfortable. Wear clothes and shoes that you feel great in and will enable you to move freely.

If you are asked to attend a dance audition, we suggest you come in in activewear/exercise clothes.

We suggest you also bring:

- a bottle of water
- a pencil and paper
- your audition songs on sheet music (with pages in a folder or bound together, printed in the key that you plan to sing in, with your cuts clearly marked).

Where exactly do I go for my audition and how will you know when I have arrived?

If you follow Google Maps to Theatrical you'll be directed to our workshop at 14 Friendship Square Cheltenham. Auditions will be held in the Scout Hall next door (the actual address is 73 Argus Street, but it's right behind us)

To make it easier to find, we will also have signing out the front.

When you arrive a member of the Theatrical team will greet you, check your details and invite you to sit in the waiting area.

A few minutes before your audition the pianist will spend a few minutes talking to you about your audition songs.

What time do I need to arrive?

Please arrive at least 15 minutes before your booked audition time so you have time to talk to the pianist and settle in before you audition.

If you are stuck in traffic or running late please call our production team on 0448 122 777 (please note that this number is not for general enquiries). If you miss your audition time for a reason beyond your control we can try to reschedule your booking, but it may be for a different day.

What do I do while I am waiting for my audition?

Once you have checked in with one of our team you are free to relax in our waiting area. Some people are happy to chat with our team members and other auditionees who are waiting, while others prefer to sit quietly and focus on their audition preparations. Either is ok. Please respect the way other people are getting themselves ready for their audition and ask if you are unclear if someone wants to chat with you.

The walls between the audition room and the waiting area are not soundproof so please keep the noise down in the waiting area. Please also make sure your devices are silent so they don't disturb others or interrupt your audition.

Once you have been checked in please do not leave the premises until you have completed your audition. If you need some fresh air or to stretch your legs make sure you let one of our team know first and they will try to make sure you don't miss your audition.

How will I know when it's time for my audition?

One of the Theatrical team will walk you in to the audition room and introduce you to the people on the casting panel.

Will the audition be recorded?

We video all of our auditions. The production team often refer back to these as part of the

casting process. Videos are deleted after the show has been cast.

Singing Auditions

What is a singing audition?

It's a chance for the casting panel to see and hear your vocal talent (the way your voice sounds and if you can stay on pitch and in time with the music) as well as how you can tell a story and connect emotionally to the song.

You will be asked to perform 2 songs, one up tempo and one ballad. It's really important that you select songs that are in the style of the show but not songs that are actually from the show.

You should practice both songs in full but you should also select 16 bars from each song that really highlight your vocal talent. The casting panel usually hear enough of your vocal talent from 16 bars, but sometimes auditionees are asked to sing the full song.

Who will be in the room for the singing audition?

The casting panel consists of the director, musical director, choreographer, casting consultant and producer. There will also be an accompanist at the piano to play during your audition.

What do I do when I enter the audition room?

The casting panel will be sitting at a table and you will be performing your audition in front of them. Most people stand when singing at their audition but if you need to sit or have specific accessibility needs, please let a member of our team know.

What song should I sing for my audition?

Here are some general tips for choosing a good audition song:

- **Stick to what you know:** By performing a song you're already familiar with, you can conquer those nerves and showcase your true self on stage.
- **Match the style:** Research the show you're auditioning for and select a song in a similar style. Check out the cast recording on Spotify, Apple Music, or YouTube for inspiration.
- **Show off your voice:** Choose a song that highlights your vocal range and talents. Be confident in delivering the lyrics with perfect pitch and timing.
- **Bring the story to life:** Remember, this is theatre. Select a song that allows you to tell a compelling story and evoke emotions. Acting skills are a must!
- **Grab their attention early:** Time is valuable during auditions, so make sure your song impresses right from the start. Trim the intro or jump straight to the best part to captivate the panel.
- **Be ready for anything:** The production team may ask you to sing the song again or try a different approach. Show them your adaptability and ability to take direction.
- **Preparation is key:** Allocate time to learn and practice your audition song. Listen to the cast recording for guidance, but keep in mind that the sheet music might have slight differences.
- **If you can't read sheet music,** learn the song by singing along to the cast recording. Just be sure to put your own unique spin on it.

Do I need to perform a song from a musical?

No, you can perform any song. However, we recommend it is at least a song in the musical style of the show, and which has an emotion or story you can perform.

Do I need to know the song by heart? Can I read the sheet music or lyrics while performing?

We strongly recommend you sing a song you know by heart. Relying on sheet music or lyrics only holds you back from truly expressing the emotion and story behind the music.

I know I need to bring sheet music, will you provide a pianist to accompany me?

Yes, we will have an experienced pianist who will accompany you.

Prepare your sheet music and make sure it is properly set up for the pianist. Find instructions on how to tape your music in the correct layout to assist the pianist [here](#). Your sheet music must be in the key you wish to perform it in.

Before the audition, you will be given time to discuss any specific preferences you have for the performance with the pianist. Clearly mark any important notes or directions on the sheet music and go through them with the pianist before singing. Remember that the pianist may not be familiar with your song. They will do their best to support you. If they make mistakes, continue singing confidently to help them catch up. Remember, you know the music best, so lead the way.

Where do I find sheet music for my audition songs?

You can purchase sheet music from sites such as www.musicnotes.com or www.sheetmusicdirect.com.

Dance Audition**What's a dance audition? What will I need to do?**

In a dance audition the choreographer will teach everyone a short dance routine. Everyone will then be split into groups, who will perform the routine without the choreographer.

The goal of a dance audition is to:

- Show off your dance talent (how well you move, how well you execute a given routine, how you 'perform' while dancing)
- Show how quickly you are able to learn choreography.

Do I have to come to the dance audition?

We will send you an email if we want to see you at the dance audition.

Who will be in the room for the dance audition? Where do I stand?

In the room will be everyone in the dance call (about 15-20 people), the choreographer, and the audition panel.

The choreographer will be standing in the front of the room and everyone else will

find space in the room to learn the routine.

Give yourself enough space so that you can move and do the routine, but also see the choreographer (particularly their feet and arms). If you need to ask people to move a bit so you can see or have space, do so politely. Keep in mind that you'll have more space when actually performing the routine in your small group later in the audition.

I'm not a confident dancer. Can I not do the dance audition?

You still have to do a dance audition. Not all roles in all musicals require excellent dancers, but the production team still need to know the dance skills of everyone they're casting. That allows them to tailor the choreography and requirements of the show to the cast.

Remember, the dance audition is about more than just choreography - it's also about the energy you bring to the routine, how well you perform/act/characterise the song, and how well you take direction and work with the choreographer and your fellow auditionees. Don't write yourself off, put yourself out there and show the audition panel why you will shine on stage no matter what level of dancer you are.

Also keep in mind that the choreographer and production team aren't out to embarrass you. They want to help you to show off the best that you can do!

I have a physical condition which means dancing will be difficult. Can I not do the dance audition?

If you have a condition that means that dancing is difficult - that's fine. Make a note of that on your audition form, and we'll discuss with you what accommodations we can make.

Can I ask the choreographer questions about the routine during the audition?

Yes, but within reason. Keep your questions short and to the point, and be mindful of not disrupting the audition for everyone else.

Also keep in mind that the choreographer is teaching the routine to the whole group, not just you. You're not going to get a detailed dance lesson during this audition.

Can I take notes on the routine during the dance audition?

Yes, you can take notes on a notepad/on your phone if it helps you remember the routine.

Keep in mind that the audition may move quite fast, so you may need to take notes at speed! You also won't be able to refer to the notes when performing the routine in your small group at the end of the audition.

After the audition

I've done my singing and my acting audition - can I go home?

Once you've completed both parts of your audition, you can leave. However, we ask that you avoid lingering at the audition venue because there may be other auditionees waiting and the available space is limited.

When will I hear back about the audition?

The audition panel will let you know at your audition when you can expect to hear back about callbacks or the final casting of the show. Even then, it can sometimes take longer than expected to work through the casting process.

After callbacks, we try to complete the casting process as soon as possible. You will receive an email or phone call with the final result of your audition as soon as casting has been completed.

We will let everyone who auditions know the outcome of their audition before the cast list is publicly announced.

How can I get feedback after my audition?

If you would like feedback on your audition please email prod@theatrical.com.au and we will try to get feedback to you as soon as possible.

Callbacks

What is a callback?

A callback is a second round of auditions. If the production team want to see more of what you can do they may ask you to attend a call back. If you are not specifically asked to attend a callback you will not be needed at the call back session.

A callback may consist of Another singing audition, potentially singing a duet or multi-part song with other people, another dance audition and/or another acting audition, where you might be asked to learn and perform a dialogue scene, potentially with another person.

The casting panel will be looking at how you perform as well as how you interact with other auditionees.

If the production team want you to learn new material for the callback, they will send that through to you. That may include an excerpt of a song, a scene of dialogue or a dance routine.

Callbacks will work similarly to the first round of auditions; you will be given a time to be at the audition venue and will be called in to perform the prepared material as required.

Callbacks are often structured a bit more flexibly than the first round of auditions, so be prepared to go with the flow. You may do singing one moment, dance the next, and then over to acting.

Feel free to ask any questions of the production team or committee representative present if you're uncertain what you should be doing.

If you still have questions feel free to email prod@theatrical.com.au