

Auditioning On Video

By Whitney Wilson

As part of the team for hiring staff, I have noticed several things both beneficial and detrimental to prospective applicants concerning their video audition tapes. The following represents a brief summary of ideas an applicant might want to consider during the production phase of his/her audition tape.

First, contact the perspective company and get all details concerning the audition. Many companies will specify exactly what they want to see. A resume and video are most common. Some companies will have you fill out an on-line application too.

Secondly, make the tape as professional as possible. A future employer wants to see how much effort you put into your audition. Make sure you use a blank VHS or DVD. Try not to use a mini tape, which will need an adapter. (Some companies do not have the correct adapter and therefore, will have to make special provisions). Regardless, how much the tape is downplayed, it is the one opportunity for you to make a great first impression.

When you begin creating your video audition tape consider the following:

- ❖ Have sufficient performance space (i.e. dance room, gym, etc.)
 - ❖ Wear attire that is appropriate for the audition and flatters your body.
 - ❖ Be mindful of personal hygiene and grooming (hair fixed & make-up applied).
 - ❖ At the beginning of your tape, provide the following information:
 - Your name
 - Where you are from
 - How to contact you
 - What is to follow on your video
 - Quick resume of achievements or experience.
 - ❖ Make sure your music is appropriate for the audition.
 - ❖ When a request is made to demonstrate your teaching ability, be sure to:
 - Know all the counts you will be teaching.
 - Make sure you breakdown the steps for your students.
 - Call steps prior to teaching.
- Always demonstrate the 8 count to be learned before beginning to teach.
 - Count off to begin the combination.
 - Demonstrate technique correctly.
 - Try to teach more than 1 person.
 - Use correct terminology.
 - Incorporate music with your combo.
 - Mirror correctly.
 - Demonstrate confidence through body posture and voice control.

Concerning the performance portion of the audition, remember:

- ❖ Solo performances are better than those in a group. However, if you specify who you are in the competition group, companies usually accept this performance.
- ❖ Perform your best dance style.
- ❖ Make sure your routine contains enough difficulty and demonstrates great technical skills.
- ❖ You want the video to impress your future employer so know your choreography and SELL it!
- ❖ Don't forget to wear appropriate clothing (i.e. costume, basic black leotard/black pants). Poor choice of attire often hurts prospective applicants.

Remember you have one shot to make a great first impression on your video! Make it your best work and keep it very professional. Good Luck!

Tips For Following Up:

1. Always mail the video to the company's office before the deadline.
2. Give them a week and follow up to ensure your video was received.
3. Wait. Most companies will send an acceptance or rejection letter in the mail.
4. If they have given you a decision date and you have not heard anything, feel free to contact them. They are usually