

# SECOND AGE PROJECT AUDITION TIPS & TRICKS



**SECOND AGE PROJECT**  
YOUTH ACTING

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## CHOOSE A PIECE YOU LOVE, A CHARACTER YOU CONNECT TO, A STORY YOU LIKE, AN EMOTION YOU RELATE TO.

Choosing the right audition monologue for you happens when you've had a read of a piece of text from a play and something inside you desperately wants to speak, to act those words out loud.

For this audition, try to find a Shakespeare monologue if you can, but we are happy to watch you do a more contemporary piece if you prefer. You will be performing Shakespeare in the show, but we will be able to guide you if it is new to you.

Don't worry- Shakespeare can unnerve even the most professional actors! Our aim is to help you feel confident with Shakespeare's language and to have the best time bringing these epic characters and stories to life.

But for now... choose a monologue that you enjoy doing!

## HOT TIP FOR SHAKESPEARE

A monologue is when your character is speaking to another character or characters and a soliloquy is when your character is talking to the audience. So when you prepare, you can think about whether you are directing your words to one person or to many people.

We love monologues and soliloquies, so feel free to choose either!



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## READ UP ON THE PLAY YOUR PIECE COMES FROM

Understanding the context of your monologue/soliloquy is essential. Knowing what happened in the story in the lead up to your monologue will help you get a better sense of how your character is feeling in that moment, how high the stakes are for them, and what they want/need at this exact time.

This will all inform how you perform your monologue. Knowing what happened just the moment before your monologue will help you launch into it.

Find out what is said to them or happens to them just before they speak and write it at the top of your monologue so you always think about it just before you begin:

- Did another character just say something to your character that prompted the monologue?
- Did something happen offstage that affected your character so they charge in to share their reaction with the audience?

## THINK ABOUT WHY YOU ARE SAYING THE WORDS - WHAT DO YOU WANT/NEED?

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Ask yourself what is your character trying to achieve throughout the piece?

- What do they want/need from the character/s or audience they are speaking to?
- What is their objective?
- Their motivation?
- What drives them to speak so much?
- Why do they need to keep speaking?

When you know the answer to these questions, your monologue performance will really get the urgency, the high stakes that it requires.

Characters don't speak for as long as a monologue unless they have lots of important things to say and to try to achieve!

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## LEARN THE LINES!

We understand learning lines can be difficult, but it is the actor's job, and knowing them inside out will help you be "in the moment" in your performance.

Choose a piece that is manageable for you to learn the lines.

A great audition piece is usually 1-2 minutes maximum, when spoken with a good pace and played with the high stakes or intensity of meaning.

We don't mind at all if your monologue is shorter than this but preferably no longer than 2 minutes. This is a standard length for audition monologues, so it's good practice!

## A NOTE ON 'TRICKS'

P.S we used artistic license when we said there were "tricks" to this...  
The only trick is preparation and rehearsal!!



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## LEARN YOUR LINES REALLY WELL. KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, WRITE THE LINES OUT, READ THEM ALOUD, MOVE WHILE SAYING THEM, REPEAT!

There are many different ways to learn a monologue and different ways work better for different people. If you don't know what works best for you – try everything out. The most important thing to do at the start of your process is to make sure you understand EVERYTHING that is being said in your monologue and why. Your preparation from the tips above will have helped you begin to memorise the journey of the piece already.

Try writing out your monologue, sentence by sentence in your own words, to make sure you understand every single thought. If you are doing a Shakespeare piece, use an online Shakespeare glossary (we love [shakespeareswords.com](http://shakespeareswords.com)) – sometimes the Elizabethan language had a different meaning in the past, or multiple meanings which Shakespeare is using to help enrich what the character is saying. It's fun to discover the genius in his use of language!

Once you have written out your monologue in your own words, try reading/acting it aloud with your characters full feeling and intention. Afterwards, reflect on the vocal range and variety, the movement and gestures you used when it was in your own words. Now that you have a sense of ownership over your character's journey, go back through the piece using Shakespeare's words and try to feel the same range of expression in your voice and body.

It has been proven that moving while learning text increases your memory capability, so get moving! Working on your monologue in motion will help get the text not only in your brain but in your body. Your whole body is an expressive vessel for your emotions, not just your head and voice – they are all connected!

## IMAGINE WHO YOU ARE TALKING TO AND GO FOR GOLD!

Imagine how the other character/s or the audience are reacting to your words, thoughts, feelings as you deliver them in your performance. If they are not on your side, does that make you have to work harder to get them to understand your point of view? Or if they are in agreement with you, are you rallying them to join you on your mission to achieve your desires? (often, in soliloquies, the character is wanting the audience to be on their 'team' in the story)

If you can imagine for each sentence, how you are trying to effect the other character or audience, and how they are reacting to each sentence in your imagination, the intention of your lines will change from moment to moment and give you surprising variety in your acting, rather than a wash of just one emotion throughout. Audiences love watching dynamic acting when they can't predict what is going to happen next. Take your audience on a journey and let them see your character change throughout the monologue.

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## IMAGINE WHO YOU ARE TALKING TO AND GO FOR GOLD! (CONTINUED)

Once you've done all this preparation and rehearsed (and rehearsed differently with new thoughts and expression, and rehearsed in a different way again... and again, being open to change and new discoveries each time you perform it)...now, you are ready to film your audition!

Be brave, take risks, play the high stakes of the circumstances of the scene. Try to get what your character wants/needs – go for gold!!!

## TIPS FOR FILMING YOUR MONOLOGUE

- Make sure you have good lighting in the space, try to choose a clear, blank wall or background so we can easily focus on you.
- Set up your phone camera so that when you are performing we can see at least your torso and head in frame. Feel free to move closer or further away during the speech so we can see your whole body in action or facial expression up close – just make sure you practice recording first to check that you stay in frame throughout the monologue.
- Introduce yourself – your name, age, and a brief sentence that sums up you – your passions, your family, your ambitions - anything you want to share
- Introduce yourself and tell us what monologue you have chosen – character, play, playwright.
- Record and Act!
- Fill out the application form, upload your video recording and give yourself some well deserved applause!!



IF YOU'RE HAVING ANY TROUBLE CHOOSING AN AUDITION MONOLOGUE, OR  
HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT CLAUDIA AT  
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