

ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE FESTIVAL

COLLEGE AUDITIONS

While this is no means “everything” you should know about preparing for an audition...it is a start.

Here are the **TYPES** of Audition Monologues to Avoid:

Monologues Not in the Style of the Show: Your monologue choice speaks to your knowledge of the show being cast. If you are not auditioning for a specific show but for a college (at Theatre Festival) pick a monologue that is more “universal” and not “show/type” specific. Show the College Representatives the best you have to offer.

Monologues Requiring Accents: You may be able to put on a perfect Scottish accent, and the director may ask you after you are finished about possible accents. Normally it’s best to audition with your actual voice. Let them see and hear the real you and how you’ll sound if cast in their show! **NOTE:** *Accents you are GOOD at could be included on your resume.*

Monologues That Aren’t Age Appropriate: Chances are, as a teenager you not likely going to be cast as an old lady or gentleman. Play close to your age and you’ll help the college representatives see you in potential roles instead of unrealistic ones.

Monologues That Are Too Long: Don’t abuse the requested monologue or monologue/song combo length by pushing the time limit. Practice...Practice...Practice until your entire audition package fits **WITHIN** the time limit!

Monologues That Are Too Short: The opposite is true, too! You don’t have a whole lot of time in that audition room, so you’ve got to make every second count. You should not take less than a minute and a half. You’re only doing yourself a disservice by not showing off for as long as they’ll allow. **AGAIN** Practice...Practice...Practice until your entire audition package fits **WITHIN** the time limit!

Monologues That Are Really Dialogues: Your favorite scene from your favorite play would make such a perfect monologue...but there are other characters in it! Trying to “cut out people and piece it together” can create a finished product that sometimes sound awkward and could be mistaken for insecurity/unfamiliarity on your part.

Monologues From Monologue Books: This is a definite **NO NO!** If you can find books like , “The Best Monologues for Girls” or “The Best Monologues for Boys,” everyone else has probably found them too. Be original.

Monologues From Movies: You are **NOT** auditioning for a movie (at least at Theatre Festival). There is a wealth of beautiful dramatic works out here. Show the college representatives that you know your stuff.

Monologues That Try to Cover Too Many Emotions: If your monologue requires you to scream, laugh, cry, and whisper all in one sixty-second period...it's time to find a new monologue. Pick a monologue that focuses on one emotion (two at most) and take the time to prove you can play it convincingly.

Monologues That Aren't Really "You": The most important part of choosing a monologue is choosing one that represents you, the actor behind the character. Choose a monologue that you care about, one that means something to you. If you can connect to the monologue on some emotional level the college representatives will see and feel that.

Monologues about Suicide. Sadly people do commit suicide. In the context of a show it is worth exploring. But as a monologue, It brings everyone in the room down and it deals with a topic some people may not want to think about.

Monologues about how My life sucks/Teenage angst. No one doubts that being a teenager is tough.. However, "my life sucks" is not the message you want to give in an audition. College representatives want to see you grow beyond the "teenager" to the talent within.

Monologues about Sex. The topic of sex and sexual exploits from a high school student to an adult is awkward and can make people uncomfortable. It is probably best to avoid this topic.

Monologues about Abortion. It can be too controversial, it can be inappropriate, and it can become too dramatic.

Monologues that say, "Haha look how funny I am." You're trying too hard; just be you. If you're funny, then a simple comedic monologue will read funny. Don't push the humor.

Monologues using "F\$%^ that S&@#, I mean #!%" A monologue is not a contest to see how many times you can swear in one minute. While it does it happen in adult theatre ,you're still in high school. Use age appropriate language.

SOME TIPS AS YOU LOOK FOR A PIECE

Look for a monologue...

that does *not* come from a monologue book or movie (!!!). College Audition monologues should be from published plays. **NOTE:** *It is probably a GOOD IDEA to read the entire play the piece comes from.*

that is Active as opposed to Passive. Make sure you are talking mostly in the present tense as opposed to talking about what you did yesterday or last year. We want to feel like a fly on the wall witnessing a conversation as opposed to being told it second hand.

that doesn't try to shock the auditor by being offensive, using excessive swear words or being inappropriately loud or negative.

that has a clear audience. Who are you talking to? Why do you feel the need to tell them this? What do you want from them?

that has a clear Super Objective: what do you ultimately want from the person you are talking to by the end of the monologue?

that follows all guidelines, time limits and general requirements for each audition.

that is age appropriate!

Hint: Think of your monologue as a **Verbal Headshot**. This piece should be a representation of who you are, what you can offer the school for the next four years and some insight into what kind of actor/human you are. Don't try to impress. The only thing that is really impressive is when a young person walks in the room, stays true to themselves, presents a simple but well thought out package, and then presents him or herself afterwards with confidence, intelligence, and maturity. **THAT is what the College Representatives want to see.**

This is not always as important for college auditions, but it can serve as a warning and you may want to bring other songs/monologues. *If the song or monologue is perfect for you, it's probably OK for a college audition even if it's on the lists below.*

OVERDONE MONOLOGUES

1. *A, My Name is Alice* (I and II) - All Monologues
2. *Agnes of God* – All Monologues
3. *Baby with the Bathwater* - All Monologues
4. *Beyond Therapy* - All Monologues
5. *Blue Window* – All Monologues
6. *Boy's Life* - All Monologues
7. *Brighton Beach Memoirs* - All Monologues
8. *Camelot* – Guenivere's Naked Monologue
9. *Death of a Salesman* – All Monologues
10. *Identity Crisis* - Peter Pan Monologue
11. *Dinner With Friends* – All Monologues
12. *End of the World* – Father With Baby at the Window Monologue
13. *Equus* - All Monologues
14. *The Fantastiks* – All Monologues
15. *Fifth of July* - All Monologues
16. *The Food Chain* – All Monologues
17. *A Girl's Guide to Chaos* - Dating Speech Monologue
18. *The Glass Menagerie* – All Monologues
19. *Heidi Chronicles* - All Monologues
20. *House of Blue Leaves* - All Monologues
21. *I Hate Hamlet* - All Monologues
22. *If I Only had a Brain* - All Monologues
23. *It Has to Be You* – Opening Monologue
24. *Jack & Jill* – “Nice” Monologue
25. *Key Exchange* – All Monologues

26. *King Lear* – Edmond
27. *Lakeboat* – The Jock Who Wanted to Dance Monologue
28. *Laughing Wild* - Tuna Monologue
29. *Little Footsteps* - All Monologues
30. *Lone Star* – All Monologues
31. *Long Day's Journey into Night* – Any Edmund Monologue
32. *Love Minus* - If Actors Go to Hell Monologue
33. *Nuts* – All Monologues
34. *Our Town* – All Monologues
35. *P.S. Your Cat is Dead* - Swimming Audition Monologue
36. *Passion Fish* – Anal Probe Monologue
37. *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* – All Monologues
38. *Quilters* - Sunbonnet Sue Monologue
39. *Raisin in the Sun* – All Monologues
40. *Romantic Comedy* - Marshmallow Monologue
41. *Shadow Box* – All Monologues
42. *Sleeping Beauty* – All Monologues
43. *Spike Heels* – All Monologues
44. *Star Spangled Girl* - All Monologues
45. *Steel Magnolias* – All Monologues
46. *Suburbia* – Strip Monologue
47. *Talking With* – All Monologues
48. *Wall of Water* - Last Cigarette Monologue
49. *Wit* – All Monologues
50. *Zoo Story* – All Monologues

OVERDONE SONGS

1. Any song from a show that the company you are auditioning for has done recently.
2. You should be wary of anything that is “hot” or currently on Broadway.
3. *1776* – “He Plays the Violin”
4. *25th Annual Putnam Co. Spelling Bee* – “I’m Not That Smart”
5. *Aida* – All Songs
6. Andrew Lloyd Webber songs
7. *Annie* – All Songs
8. *Avenue Q* – “Purpose”
9. *Babes in Arms* – “Johnny One Note”
10. *Bells Are Ringing* – “I Met a Girl”
11. *Billy Elliot* – “Electricity”
12. *Candide* – “Glitter and be Gay”
13. *Carousel* – “If I Loved You”
14. *Chess* – “Anthem”
15. *Chicago* – “All That Jazz”
16. *Cinderella* – “My Own Little Corner”
17. *A Chorus Line* - All Songs
18. *Children of Eden* – All Songs
19. *City of Angels* – “You Can Always Count on Me”
20. *Closer Than Ever* – “Miss Byrd”
21. “Embraceable You” by George Gershwin
22. *The Fantastiks* – All Songs
23. *Flower Drum Song* – “I Enjoy Being a Girl”
24. *Follies* – “Broadway Baby”
25. *Footloose* - All Songs
26. *Funny Girl* – “Don’t Rain on my Parade”
27. *Guys & Dolls* – All Songs

28. *Grease* – All Songs
29. *Hairspray* – “Good Morning, Baltimore”
30. *Hello Dolly* – “Ribbons Down My Back”
31. “I Get a Kick Out of You” by Cole Porter
32. Jason Robert Brown songs
33. *Jekyll and Hyde* - All Songs
34. *Kiss Me Kate* – “I Hate Men”
35. *Les Miserables* – All Songs
36. *Little Shop of Horrors* - All Songs
37. *My Fair Lady* - All Songs
38. *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* – All Songs
39. *Oh, Kay!* – “Someone to Watch Over Me”
40. *Oklahoma!* – All Songs
41. *Once Upon a Mattress* – “Shy”
42. *Paint Your Wagon* – “They Call the Wind Mariah”
43. *Pippin* – All Songs
44. *Porgy and Bess* - Summertime
45. *Rent* - All Songs
46. *Seesaw* – “Nobody Does it Like Me”
47. *She Loves Me* – All Songs
48. *Show Boat* – “Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man”
49. *Sound of Music* – All Songs
50. *South Pacific* – All Songs
51. *Spring Awakening* – All Songs
52. Stephen Sondheim songs
53. *Sweet Charity* – “Big Spender”
54. *Thoroughly Modern Millie* – All Songs
55. *Wicked* – “Popular”
56. *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* – “My New Philosophy”