

WINTER ONE-ACT FESTIVAL

Upstage Players | Audition Packet

AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS | Welcome to Upstage Players' Winter One-Act Festival auditions! This packet contains short, original audition readings inspired by the character types in our three productions: ***Crazytown***, ***The Waiting Room***, and ***I'll Always Be With You***. Please read through the character descriptions and acting directions before performing the material. You do not need to memorize the passages, and you are not auditioning for one specific role. We want to see your range, creativity, and ability to bring different characters to life.

AUDITION FLOW | We want auditions to be simple, relaxed, and fun! Here's what you can expect from start to finish:

COMPLETE YOUR AUDITION FORM | Fill out the audition form at any point before auditions. Your form can be updated at any time. Simply return to the same link if your availability, conflicts, or other information changes.

ARRIVE & CHECK IN | Auditions will be held at the Upsala High School Auditorium. When you arrive, check in using the tablet provided. Auditions are first come, first served, and checking in will place you in the audition queue. You'll wait in the commons area until it's your turn. Once your name is called, you'll be brought into the auditorium for a private, filmed audition.

YOUR AUDITION | Your entire audition should take approximately 7 minutes. During your audition, you will:

- Read each of the provided audition monologues.
- Follow the acting directions for each reading.
- Answer a few questions about your audition form and availability.

WHAT WE'RE CASTING | With more than 70 characters across the festival, you will not be auditioning for a specific role. Instead, the director will use the different readings to see your range, strengths, and character possibilities and determine which character, or characters, may be the best fit for you. Make bold choices, have fun, and don't worry about being perfect. We're excited to see what you bring to the stage!

NEWS ANCHOR | Polished, professional, and completely serious

Good evening. Our top story tonight: residents are being asked to remain indoors after more than three hundred garden gnomes mysteriously appeared in the town square. Officials insist there is no cause for alarm, although the mayor has not been seen since Tuesday. Witnesses report that the gnomes have moved approximately six feet closer to City Hall since this morning. We will continue to follow this developing situation.

CONFRONTATIONAL/INTENSE | There is hurt and fear underneath the anger. Let the intensity build rather than starting at full volume.

Stop telling me that you understand. You weren't there, and you don't know what it was like to stand there and realize I couldn't fix it. I did everything I was supposed to do, and somehow I'm still the one left carrying this. So please, if you actually want to help me, stop pretending you know how I feel!

SPORTS COMMENTATOR | High-energy play-by-play. Build the excitement

And here we go. Miller approaches the line with everything riding on this moment. The crowd is silent as he looks left, looks right, and makes his move. OH! An unbelievable turn of events! I have been calling this sport for seventeen years, and I have NEVER seen anything like what just happened!

VULNERABLE/EMOTIONAL | You're trying not to cry or reveal how much this hurts

I keep thinking you're going to walk through that door like nothing ever happened. I know that's impossible, but sometimes I still catch myself listening for your footsteps. There are so many things I thought I'd have more time to tell you. I just hope, wherever you are, you knew how much you mattered to me.

INFORMERCIAL HOST | Charismatic, enthusiastic, and ridiculously persuasive

Are you tired of opening your refrigerator and having absolutely no idea why you walked into the kitchen? Introducing the Remember-Matic 3000! Simply press this button and, within seconds, you'll remember exactly what you were doing. No more forgotten groceries, missed appointments, or standing helplessly in doorways! Call today, because remembering tomorrow starts RIGHT NOW!

SUSPENCE/FEAR | Begin with controlled uncertainty and gradually realize you may actually be in danger

I heard it again last night. At first I thought it was the pipes, but pipes don't stop making noise when you say their name. I got out of bed and walked toward the hallway, and that's when I saw the door was open. I know I closed it before I went to sleep. And tonight, whatever is on the other side is getting closer.

ROBIN WILLIAMS-ESQUE | Play with voice, posture, mannerisms, and comedic timing

I want to make one thing perfectly clear. I did not steal the goose. Did I borrow the goose? That's a complicated legal question, and I don't think any of us here are qualified to answer it. What I can tell you is that the goose came willingly. And frankly, I think it's insulting that no one has bothered to ask the goose what he wants.

QUIET/REFLECTIVE | Simple, thoughtful, and grounded

It's strange how much time we spend worrying about things that eventually don't matter. The argument you couldn't let go, the mistake you thought everyone would remember, the day that didn't go according to plan. Then one day you look back and realize the moments that mattered were much smaller. I think I just wish I'd noticed more of them while they were happening.

SARCASTIC/JERK | Dry, unimpressed, and slightly condescending

Oh, fantastic. Another brilliant idea. Because the first three worked out so well. But please, don't let me interrupt whatever master plan you've put together using absolutely no common sense. I'm sure this time everything will magically work itself out. And when it doesn't, I'll be right over there, practicing my surprised face.