A Helpful Guide for Auditioning for the BFA Performance Program

For the BFA Performance Program have two contrasting contemporary monologues prepared. ‘Contemporary’ means plays written in the last 15 years. ‘Contrasting’ means each should show a different side of you: one may be comical while the other is serious, one may be very close to who you are and other may be more of a character part, the energies and tempos should also be different. The total time needs to be within three minutes, not including the introduction.

Your monologues should demonstrate your abilities. Always choose material that is within your range of life and stage experience. Parts which call for extremes of accent, age, or emotion should be avoided. Instead of asking yourself "What does the faculty want?" a better question is "How can I best show them who I am?"

Always read the whole script. You will gain insights into the life of your character and hints as to how the piece may be approached.

Seek help from teachers or upperclassmen. Practice doing your pieces to someone else so you are not acting in a vacuum.

You may stand or sit during your audition. Please do not use props.

Wear appropriate clothing you can move freely in and that show you off at your best without distracting from your work.

Begin your audition by introducing yourself and your pieces. Name two out of three facts regarding your monologues. [Name of Play, Author, Character]

Example: Hello, I'm ____________, I'll be doing Inez from Our Lady of 121st Street and a piece from Adam Bock’s, The Drunken City.

After your introduction, pause for a moment before beginning the first monologue. Many auditions go awry because of rushing.

Do not make eye contact with the faculty during the monologues. Put the imaginary person/people you are talking to, to one side or beyond the faculty. When you finish, take a moment to let the last moment sink in.

Then you will come and sit down for a short chat.

Above all, enjoy your audition. Breathe, work with ease and remember you love to act.