



Auditioning: An Actor-Friendly Guide

By Joanna Merlin

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Theater veteran and acting teacher Joanna Merlin has written the definitive guide to auditioning for stage and screen, bringing to it a valuable dual perspective. She has spent her career on both sides of the auditioning process, both as an award-winning casting director who has worked with Harold Prince, Bernard Bertolucci, and James Ivory, and as an accomplished actor herself.

In this highly informative and accessible book, Merlin provides everything the actor needs to achieve self-confidence and artistic honesty—from the most basic practical tips to an in-depth framework for preparing a part. Filled with advice from the most esteemed people in the business, such as James Lapine, Nora Ephron, and Stephen Sondheim, and charged with tremendous wisdom and compassion, this indispensable resource will arm the reader to face an actor's greatest challenge: getting the part.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Experienced acting teacher and casting director Merlin, who has worked with such luminaries as James Ivory, Bernardo Bertolucci, and Stephen Sondheim, provides comprehensive instruction here on how actors can improve their auditions. The author's writing style is friendly and straightforward while still being technically focused. She takes a variety of dramatic scenes and breaks them down to show how an actor can use a short section of a play to make a big impression. She includes special advice for auditioning for film, TV, and musicals. Merlin also goes through the actual auditioning event step by step, with advice on how to handle props, costumes, positioning, lights, and other potential problems. One chapter includes comments from directors on what they would like to see in an actor's audition. A gem of a book for every library that serves aspiring actors and we all do, don't we? For all libraries. J. Sara Paulk, Coastal Plain Regional Lib., Tifton, GA

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Review

"Joanna Merlin [is] one of the top casting directors in the country and a formidable actress.... Her compassion and understanding toward actors is matched by her sensitivity and generosity in teaching this unusual craft."—Kevin Kline

From the Inside Flap

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