

Code of Practice - Auditions in Australia

1. Auditions should be conducted in a professional and efficient manner.
2. In consideration of the preparation artists require prior to auditioning, adequate notification of auditions should be given to all concerned. For example, a minimum of one week is preferable, but it is recognised that different circumstances may sometimes make this impossible.
3. The artist and/or agent should, as appropriate to the particular production, be supplied in advance with:
 - Information about the production and the audition process;
 - A description of the roles being auditioned;
 - Specific requirements to present a speech or to perform a scene or to perform a specific song and whether this is to be chosen by the artist or the employer.
4. The artist should be sent adequate excerpts of the script or score (and/or, if appropriate, a full script, and/or the full musical score), and where possible, a full character synopsis relating to any role/s for which they are to be auditioned, as early as possible and preferably at the time of audition booking. If, however, the artist is asked during the audition to sing or read specific material, they should be given adequate time to prepare.
5. Audition venues should be of suitable size, properly lit, cleaned, heated and ventilated, and provide a suitable place to wait. Where possible, the producer will provide artists with an appropriate space to change and prepare.
6. Dance auditions must be conducted on dance surfaces appropriate to the form of dance being performed. Dance auditions should not be conducted on concrete.
7. Auditions should respect the privacy of those involved. Auditions should not be held in public.
8. Filming and recording of auditions may be permitted for genuine audition and casting purposes provided that the artist's permission is obtained beforehand.
9. Members of the media may be present at an audition, and associated activity permitted, provided that agreement has been reached between the artist/s and the producer; the artist's right to decline will be respected. In any event, artists should be informed of the possibility that media may be present.
10. On arrival at the place of audition, the artist should be informed of the names of the members of the audition panel verbally or by notice at the audition reception. The artist should be informed of any special requirements which have not been notified in advance.
11. The producer should endeavour to audition the artist at the time agreed, and ensure that the artist has access to water and a drinking receptacle. Should there be any undue delay, the producer should notify the artist and, if possible, give an estimated revised time, the artist may, if possible, then attend to other matters in the interim.

12. A responsible person involved in casting, nominated by the producer/director and representing the creative team, shall be present at all auditions.
13. Performers will be advised of the casting process, where possible, bearing in mind that circumstances may change.
14. If an artist is required to sing at the audition, the producer should provide the services of a capable pianist. The artist has the option of providing their own pianist, at the initial audition, at their own expense.
15. If the artist is required to read with another person, that person shall be an experienced suitable professional performer, or if this is not possible, an otherwise competent person.
16. An artist auditioning for a role requiring an accent and/or singing expertise, shall have at least two weeks to prepare for the audition.
17. The producer shall provide, where reasonable and practicable, access for disabled people.
18. The producer is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The audition process should therefore comply with relevant State and Federal Equal Opportunity and Anti-Discrimination legislation.
19. If requested by the artist, an officer of the MEAA shall be entitled to be present at the relevant audition, as an observer only, provided reasonable notification has been given to the producer.