



LOOK INSIDE

So You Want To Tread The Boards by Jennifer Reischel

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From the beginning

10 honest industry truths

The "It" factor...finding your niche (how do you stand out from the crowd, what makes a panel pick you and not the next person down the line, what makes you different and unique as a performer)

Drama school – the myths and truths about formal training

To Train, or Not to Train (includes common misconceptions about drama school)

Drama School: The Fundamentals

Should I go to drama school, and which one?

(includes training in London versus other parts of the country)

The application process for schools

Auditioning for schools

Accredited or non-accredited

A level or B-tech

Do my school grades matter?

1, 2 or 3 year, which length of course is best?

Degree or diploma

What time of year is best to apply for drama school?

How many schools should I try for?

Waiting list/reserve places

Preparing for drama school auditions and when to start

Post grads – do I need a relevant BA degree?

Audition fee

Drama schools who ask for CVs

I can't decide which school to pick

Exams in singing and acting

References for drama school

How long till I hear from drama schools after my auditions?

Feedback after rejection from a school

Deposits, waiting for a "better" offer

Re-applying to drama schools after being rejected

Re-applying next year for "better" offers

Postponing your offer

What days do drama schools hold auditions?

Drama school auditions – the day itself

Auditioning with an injury/illness

Photos for drama school application
Devised pieces for drama school auditions
Personal statements
Musical theatre or acting – which training is best for me?
What age is best to attend drama school?
Test – are you ready for your drama school audition?

How do I pay for my training?

The training process and your transition from graduate to professional

“My first professional audition” (personal story)

Preparation for Drama School Training (includes finding a place to live and housemates, what to bring, what to expect, how to deal with problems/issues at your particular school)

Your Time at Drama School: Tips and Advice

Professional Work While You Train (includes leaving early for professional work, writing to casting directors and agents whilst training, professional auditions while training at drama school)

What Next After Graduation? (Includes help on finding an agent if none spotted you at the showcase, how to deal with working "for free", how to keep your foot in the game when out of work, etc)

The practicalities of getting seen for work

Preparation for auditions: “Casting are not always what they seem” (personal story)

Agents (how to find one, how to deal with them, interview questions, how to know which ones to contact and who is reputable)

Presentation: Your CV and Photograph (including a detailed general layout of what a professional CV looks like, how to prepare for your photo session, how to find/choose a photographer and how to choose your final picture)

Covering Letters (includes examples of letters to casting directors and agents)

Getting an agent/Securing professional work without formal training

Professional auditions: the low down (includes info on where professional auditions are advertised, audition seasons, Dos and don'ts for professional auditions, Cold Readings)

What exactly happens at a professional audition? (the process explained for MT, plays, television, film, commercials, etc described in detail including recalls)

Alternative auditions/performance work (includes info on fringe work, student films, actor/musicians, amateur theatre, reality television)

Personal promotion

Demo singing CDs and getting them heard

Voice-over CDs

Show reels

Life as a professional

“Be prepared for anything” (personal story)

What's this business really like?

Do I have to live in London?

Important decisions and tools (includes info on choosing a stage name, screen or stage acting, dealing with computers and the internet)

Income (or what can I expect to earn and paying the bills while resting including an office temping guide)

Touring (finding accommodation, travelling by train/car/plane, what to bring)

Surviving London - the Big, Bad City (tips on where to live, how to find somewhere to live and arts-related people to share with, cheap theatre tickets, cheap eating out, cheap fun and social stuff, cheap temporary accommodation like bed & breakfast)

Coping With Nerves and Stage Fright

Taxes and registering as Self-Employed (including a guide on how to complete your income tax return)

“Out of the box”

Disabled performers

Size, height and other concerns (including ethnicity issues)

Parental problems (dealing with relatives and friends that don't want you to pursue performing professionally)

Non-UK Performers

Gap-Year advice

Performing opportunities for teenagers (including a list of all full time stage school courses as well as part time courses offered for children/teens by accredited drama schools)

Am I too old to?

Courses and Resources

Summer courses

Part time and evening courses

Studying and working in the USA (including a list of all acting and MT courses offered by US universities and drama colleges)

Foundation courses (includes a list of those offered by accredited drama schools)

Publications (includes information on Spotlight, Castweb, Castnet, Castingcallpro, The Actor's Yearbook, Contacts, PCR, The Stage, Whose Where)

Equity

Monologues and Acting

The low down on audition monologues (advice on where to find audition material including links to websites and theatre companies, overdone material, how to prepare your speeches, examples of good audition speeches)

Preparing a monologue (includes what belongs in a professional audition monologue repertoire)

Audition coaches

Singing

Types of musical theatre songs

Practical tips for your singing audition (how to choose a song, vocal ranges, transposing songs, singing for your age range, how to stage your pieces etc.)

Accompanists

Backing tracks, sheet music and transposition/transcription services

Sight singing, reading music and music theory

Singing auditions for acting courses and actors

Choosing a singing teacher

Looking after your voice

What belongs in a professional musical theatre song repertoire

Dance and movement

"Mamma Mia here we go again" (personal story)

What to wear (where to find dance wear including the most common dance wear, like cazeios, etc explained in detail)

What if I can't dance? (Also, how to prepare for musical theatre if you are not a dancer)

The dance audition – tips and advice

Other related jobs

Corporate acting

Extra or Walk-on work

Television presenting

TIE (Theatre in Education)

Working on cruise ships

Cabaret (what is it and where is performed, ways to get involved)

Appendices

Further Reading

Essential tips and links (including singing and acting exam links, an A to Z of every internet link to do with performing including movie posters, youth theatres, theatre guide tours, master classes, dance and singing links, research and reference libraries, book shops also online for second hand plays, theatre festivals in the UK, and internet links to the most important MT composers)

Glossary of basic theatrical terms (what is a swing, understudy, stage manager, what does a "tech" involve, etc.)

Recommended songs for musical theatre auditions (about 30 pages of suggestions for male, female and children/teens, separated into ballad and up-tempo/character sections, including very rare material)

Shows and songs to avoid at auditions

Summer courses (every available summer course for any age offered by UK drama and dance schools)

Accredited full-time courses list

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