

Self-Tape Guide

What is a “self-tape”?

- A self-tape is an audition the actor films on their own and then sends in remotely. It is requested by a casting director/theater and then submitted to them electronically.

SET-UP

- ****Sometimes, you will get specific filming instructions from the casting director. Read directions thoroughly!**
- **ALWAYS FILM IN LANDSCAPE (HORIZONTAL)** unless instructed differently by casting
- If you don't have a tripod, have someone else film for you!
- **The camera should be at eye level!!!!**
- Dress as you would for an in-person audition!
- For musical theater auditions, anywhere from a ¾ shot to a “waist up” shot works great.
- Slate (Introduce yourself and what you're singing like you would in an audition!)
- **Edit your videos so we don't see you fumbling with your camera before/after!**
 - **In person, we say “Your audition begins the moment you walk in the door.” For self-tapes, “Your audition begins the moment casting clicks on your video.”**
 - **Don't let the first thing they see of you be you adjusting!**
- If you're singing multiple songs/cuts, you can do separate videos and edit them together (iMovie is a great tool!)
 - However, each song/cut needs to be **1 take**
- If singing with recorded accompaniment, have someone else press start so you can focus on auditioning!
 - Unless specifically requested, **do not sing a cappella!** YouTube is a great resource for finding accompaniment tracks!
- Find as neutral a background as possible (this can be tricky in a house). A solid color wall is ideal!
- Lighting for a self-tape should not be dim, however, it shouldn't be so bright that it overpowers or washes you out.

SUBMITTING

- Follow specific guidelines from casting for submission!
- If not given specific instructions, send via unlisted YouTube link or **shareable** GoogleDrive link
 - Unlisted YouTube is most user-friendly!
- **Unless requested, DO NOT send a video file on its own.**
- Make sure everything is labeled as requested. At the very least, make sure it has your name!