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October

2017

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**Dramatic Acting**

* [Auditions](http://www.medievaltimes.com/teachers-students/materials/dramatic-acting/auditions.html)
* [Background Performers](http://www.medievaltimes.com/teachers-students/materials/dramatic-acting/becoming-a-background-performer.html)
* [Working with Animals](http://www.medievaltimes.com/teachers-students/materials/dramatic-acting/working-with-animals.html)
* [Weapons as Props](http://www.medievaltimes.com/teachers-students/materials/dramatic-acting/weapons-as-props.html)

**Dramatic Acting**

Medieval Times actors sometimes train for years to create authentic performances.

Medieval drama grew out of the religious tradition of the liturgy, beginning about the 11th century. Topics and themes came from the Old Testament (Noah and the flood, Jonah and the whale, Daniel in the lion's den) and others were stories about the birth and death of Christ. These dramas were performed with costumes and musical instruments and, at first, took place directly outside the church. Later they were staged in marketplaces, where they were produced by local guilds.

**Acting Basics**

Acting in some theatrical productions can be a valuable experience for any actor. Many actors consider theatrical acting the purest form of the art.

Unlike movies or TV, if something happens during the play (a falling set, forgetting lines), the actors are forced to stay in character and improvise as best they can. These added pressures help actors grow and develop their craft.

Plus, because theater actors play the same role day after day, they can experiment with and fine-tune their character development. An actor is truly in control of his or her performance in the theater. While in television or film, the director has the final say of which cut will be used

**Auditions**

An audition is essentially a job interview for an acting job. There are three main types of auditions: casting calls, casting auditions and theater auditions.

From princesses to knights, Medival Times actors must audition for their roles in the performance.

**General auditions,** referred to as casting calls, are open to anyone - experienced or not. You do not need an agent to audition at these calls, and ads for them are generally found in newspapers, magazines and Websites.

Because there are usually so many people attending, the casting director can only spend a limited time with each actor. Be sure to make a good first impression quickly. Also, you may be in line for several hours, so wear comfortable clothes and shoes.

**Casting calls** are most often used to help fill relatively minor roles. While these general auditions may not lead to an immediate role, they are a good way to meet casting directors for future opportunities.

**Showbiz Vocabulary**

**Sides**: Pages of the script that you will be reading from for an audition

Casting auditions or interviews are generally set up through an agent and tend to be for a more major role. Other actors at the audition may look very similar to you. The casting director usually knows what "look" they are after, so don't be put off.

If you do not have an agent, there is still a chance you can make it to a casting audition. A casting director may invite you after meeting you at a casting call. If you do not have an agent and somehow hear about a casting audition, send your resume and head shot to the casting director.

While the number of actors auditioning may be less than a casting call, the competition is usually fierce at these types of auditions.

**Theater auditions** are often advertised in local newspapers and magazines (and their respective Websites). Stay in touch with other local actors as well. Word of mouth is an excellent way to learn of auditions.

If you are auditioning for a role in a well-known play, take advantage and get a copy of the script beforehand to rehearse. Get familiar with the setting, time period, characters and other aspects of the piece.

**Acting Tip:**

Don't look directly at the casting director, or whoever may be evaluating you, while performing your monologue.

Many theater auditions will require a monologue. In selecting monologues, choose and memorize two different selections that will show your range as an actor. Ideally you should memorize a few different monologues so you can perform the most appropriate one at each audition.

Also, should the role you are trying out for involve singing, be prepared to sing one or two songs.

Be sure to stand in the light on the stage. If the casting director can't see you, he or she will have a hard time evaluating your performance and remembering you

**Working With Animals**

Every Medieval Times actor treats our horses with the utmost respect.

To work with animals you must be very flexible as an actor to deal with and react to whatever the animal does. Patience is essential. You won't be alone with the animals, though, as most animals in the industry have extensive training and will have a full-time trainer or wrangler on set with them. That said, animals can be wild and dangerous. Always treat them with the utmost respect.

When working with horses, the saddle must be properly in place. The safety of the actor and the animal must come first. If you don't know how to ride a horse, you will be trained, but knowing how may be an advantage to getting the part and making it appear natural and familiar.

It is important to know that horses are creatures of habit. They also have a keen sense of smell, hearing and direction. Remember that their skin is very sensitive and will respond to the slightest touch. Despite their size, you need to treat these animals gently

**Weapons as Props**

When using a weapon for your scene, safety must always come first – for both you and your co-actors.

Accidents can and do happen with both real and fake weapons during rehearsals and performances. It is important to pay attention during the weapons training you will receive. These lessons are just as important as your acting training. Knowing what you are doing will help make your scene look more authentic and keep you and fellow actors out of harm's way.



It is a good idea to inspect the area where the weapon will be used before the scene. An actor running with a blade could trip and fall onto the blade or another actor. To prevent this, check the floor for hazards. Additionally, actors using weapons should wear protective gear under their costumes whenever possible.

Any scenes involving weapons or explosive effects are always extensively rehearsed and choreographed to ensure maximum safety while making the scene look very dangerous.