



# Audition Information and Advice Fall 2025

*Participation with Simpson Productions is open to all Simpson College students.*

## General Information

*Auditions for anthropology and Little Shop of Horrors are being held together.*

The auditions are Tuesday, August 26, 6:30-9:30 pm on the second floor of Blank Performing Arts Center (BPAC 202). Callbacks are scheduled for August 27.

Sign up for an auditions slot here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090D4CA8A92EA4F85-56975490-simpson#/>

Be sure to fill out a Simpson Productions company form:

<https://forms.gle/fshpTUnRAEsJs9cV8>

### What should you prepare?

Everyone should prepare a 60-second contemporary dramatic piece. For those interested in being considered for a role in *Little Shop*, also prepare a 30-second cut in the style of the musical.

Please see details about the monologue and the music in the advice section of this handout.

### What will happen at the audition?

Check in with the stage managers in the upper lobby outside of BPAC 202.

Arrive at least 10-minutes before your audition. The stage managers will take your photo.

Make sure you are warmed up prior to your audition.

When you come into 202 you will speak first with the accompanist and give them your sheet music. Come to the center of the space and introduce your pieces and then perform both the monologue and the song.

### What should you wear to your audition?

Dress as though you are going to an interview and wear something that makes you feel confident.

### Questions?

Please direct general questions about the auditions to Prof. Jennifer Nostrala at [Jennifer.nostrala@simpson.edu](mailto:Jennifer.nostrala@simpson.edu).

*Those interested in working backstage should also fill out the Simpson Productions Company Form.*

# Monologue Advice

Everyone auditioning should prepare a monologue. (If you are new to auditioning you can use one of the cold read monologues available at the audition.)

## Where can I find a monologue?

You can find monologue books in your local library. If you live in the Indianola area over the summer, you can check out [Dunn Library](#). You will even find some eBooks, so you can access them directly from your computer.

There are also several online sources for monologues. Here are a few links:

- ["15 Contemporary Monologues for Your Next Audition"](#)
- <https://www.sheas.org/monologue-library/>
- ["Acting Monologues - Contemporary Acting Monologues/Backstage"](#)

## How do I prepare the monologue?

Read through the monologue several times to familiarize yourself with the text. Decide who your character is talking to and what they want from the other person.

Break your monologue down into smaller beats. Look for changes that happen in the monologue. Does the character try a different tactics to get what they want? Does the subject change? Do they make a discovery. Breaking the monologue into smaller sections will help you find variety in your performance. It will also make memorization easier.

Memorize the monologue. The sooner you memorize the easier it is to work on the piece and the more confident you will be when performing.

Stage the monologue by imagining that you are talking to the other character past where the directors are sitting. You don't want to speak directly to the people watching you. You do have the option of using a chair. Think about what your character needs and use that to help you discover what to do physically during the monologue.

## A few other things:

- Time the monologue as you read it out loud. Remember, you want a 60-second monologue.
- Perform your monologue for other people. This is a great way to test out the audition and build your confidence with the piece.
- Sign up for your audition time [here](#).
- Have fun! Think of auditioning as just another opportunity to perform. 😊🎤
- Those who are interested in begin considered for *Little Shop of Horrors* will also sing during the auditions. More information coming about how to prepare for that part of the audition.

## Song Advice

All students interested in being considered for a role in *Little Shop of Horrors* should prepare a 30-second cut in the style of the musical.

If you are singing bring your music in the correct key and cuts clearly marked. Please make sure the entire piano part is visible in the music. An accompanist will be provided.

### Finding a song

You can find most songs on the online website Musicnotes.com. Try to select the original key in which your song was written. If you live in the Indianola area over the summer, you can check out [Dunn Library](#). *Little Shop* is set in the musical style of early 1960s rock and roll, doo-wop, and early Motown, so look for pop songs or musicals that are set in that era. A great website for audition songs for *Little Shop* broken down by character is...

<https://musicaltheatresources.com/2024/10/21/great-audition-songs-for-little-shop-of-horrors-women-men/>

... but don't limit yourself to these!

### How do I prepare the song?

Once you have chosen your song, narrow it down to a 30-second (or so) cut. Your cut should ideally show as much of your range as possible (especially the high notes you're comfortable with) and have a character arc that allows you to tell a story. Once you have selected your cut, it's important to practice singing it with the piano accompaniment by yourself so you know how it sounds.

Consider purchasing the accompaniment through the website: <https://www.pianotrax.com/> so you can practice independently of a recording. The Piano Trax website also allows you to purchase just the melody for practicing as well as the correct key for both the melody and accompaniment.

Memorize the song cut. The sooner you memorize the easier it is to work on the piece and the more confident you will be when performing.

Perform your song for other people. This is a great way to test out the audition and build your confidence with the piece.

### For the audition:

- Have your music in a clean, black three-ring binder. (No loose pages.)
- Print your music **front-back** without staples or tape if possible. (Tape is okay if you must.)
- Have clean, legible copies of your music on white copy paper in the key you would like it to be performed.
- Have both the song and the composer clearly marked at the top of your cut.
- Have the last line of your monologue written before your entrance if appropriate.
- Indicate if you will need your pitch on the score by writing “(Pitch)” or “(Bell tone)”.
- Clearly mark where you want the *piano* to start and stop, not where you start and stop.
- Clearly indicate all cuts, even “whiting out” or crossing out the bars you would not like to have played if possible.
- Be sure the left hand on the bottom of the page and the vocal line at the top of the page have not been cut off your copy.
- Don’t use clear protector sleeves for your sheet music. If you’d like, using an iPad is okay, but make sure it’s charged!
- Don’t transpose your musical theatre songs using the aforementioned online music services.
- Choose songs with material that matters to you, that speaks to your soul.

### At the audition:

Bring your music to the pianist, give them your tempo by singing it softly to them and have fun!

For questions or to run through your musical audition material in advance, contact Dr. Damon Stevens at [damon.stevens@simpson.edu](mailto:damon.stevens@simpson.edu).