2020 Virtual Regional Auditions FAQs

What are the Virtual Regional Auditions?
In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on the theatre community, Theatre Bay Area has launched the 2020 Virtual Regionals, which are categorized by the four regions of the Bay Area: East Bay, North Bay, South Bay, and San Francisco. Actors will be able to submit their headshot, resume, and a link to their audition video via an electronic form and select which regions they’d like to be considered for. Registered auditors will receive access (through the end of September) to the videos and information for actors who have expressed interest in working in their respective regions.

Theatre Bay Area has crafted the virtual auditions to meet the needs of our individual and company members in this current climate while incorporating feedback from past general and regional auditions.

Who can participate in the Virtual Regional Auditions?
All actors (equity and non) can submit a virtual audition.

When is the application due?
The application deadline for the virtual auditions is 5 pm, August 10th, 2020.

How do I submit an audition?
Participants will have access to a provided Google form to upload their materials and attach a link to their audition video after filling out the first registration through the TBA website.

How many auditors (casting directors) will see my audition?
We accept auditor (casting director) registrations before and after the actor submission deadline, so we will not know definitively who will be receiving your virtual audition. A list of organizations who have gained access to the auditions will be made public on the TBA website, and updated frequently.

What if I am 18 or under?
All actors are eligible to apply.

How much time do I have?
Your audition can be up to 3 minutes, plus up to 30 seconds for slate/introduction (for both non-AEA and AEA actors). If your video is longer than 4 minutes, it will be deleted and you will be notified that your application is ineligible. You can use the 3 minutes to perform whichever pieces you feel best represent your work and you as a performer. This could include songs, monologues, clown pieces, dances, etc. It is generally recommended to include at least one monologue.

Can I sign up after the application date?
We do not accept late applications; you must have your application in on or before the submission deadline date (August 10th).

How do I submit my audition?
Once you register for the auditions, you will be provided with a link to a Google form. You’ll need to fully answer each question of the form and attach a link to a Youtube or Vimeo video of your audition. Please be sure to include the password if you have set your video to be private.
How do I record an audition video?

For non-musical auditions:

- You can record your audition directly onto your phone or laptop. If you decide to use a camera, you will need to transfer the footage to your phone or PC for editing purposes.
- Programs and apps like InShot and iMovie are incredibly user-friendly and make for easy editing.

For musical auditions:

- If at all possible, please have some sort of accompaniment (live, karaoke track, etc). There are lots of free options online (MusicNotes, YouTube), but there are also many Bay Area pianists currently out of work that would be happy to record a track for a minimal fee.
- Make sure to listen to the balance between your voice and the accompaniment — casting directors want to hear you, supported by the accompaniment — not the other way around!
- If you have the technology accessible, recording your voice separately from the accompaniment can help produce the best sound, but this is not required (i.e. Use air pods/headphones to hear accompaniment while recording your video/voice, then add the accompaniment back in using GarageBand or other tech).
- If you have a higher-quality microphone, that is helpful for recording singing, as built-in mics on phones or computers are often not strong enough to handle the frequencies/volume changes in songs. That being said, use whatever is available to you!

Other video auditions bits (that you might already have, but just in case!):

- Make sure to note when each of your pieces start in the video (ex. Song 1 starts at 1.20 and Monologue starts at 2.10). This will help auditors easily navigate your audition. There will be a place to input this information in the submission form.
- Be sure you are well-lit — casting directors want to be able to see you do what you do best!
- Unless your pieces necessitate it, don’t look directly into the camera, rather, look a little to the left of it or just above it. This will allow casting to see your face without breaking the fourth wall.
- Record horizontally or vertically, with approximately two-thirds of your body showing — in other words, you do not have to get a full-body shot. Indeed, a two-thirds or waist-up shot will be better, since it allows your face to be more visible in the recording.
- Wear clothes that contrast against your background, but are not distracting from your audition.
- Find the best lighting available in your house — generally a combination of natural light from a window and lamps/lights.

Helpful Resources and Tutorials

- Video Editing Software (for free!)
  https://www.oberlo.com/blog/best-free-video-editing-software

- OBS Tutorials
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=kesrxM9z2z4&feature=emb_logo
  https://streamshark.io/obs-guide/adding-webcam
- **Video Cameras**

- **Microphones**
  [https://ehomerecordingstudio.com/usb-microphones/](https://ehomerecordingstudio.com/usb-microphones/)

- **Zoom Audio Tutorials**
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eb5dg98cSEM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eb5dg98cSEM)
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZcZ6VmnUWw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZcZ6VmnUWw)

**What if I have more questions?**
Please contact Mikah Johnson at mikah@theatrebayarea.org.