

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE OPEN AUDITION WORKSHOP?

Our auditions are super fun and relaxed! We want you to feel comfortable and be your natural self.

During the workshop, you'll take part in various games and exercises to showcase your skills and personality. We'll assess how well you work as part of a team, listen to feedback, use your imagination, and share your thoughts and ideas.

We might ask you to read a short piece of text, so let us know on the application form if you require any additional support.

DO I NEED TO PREPARE ANYTHING?

Yes! You need to prepare the things listed below which are specific to each pathway:

GYC Acting Pathway:

Prepare 1 monologue from any play of your own choice.

Your monologue should last no longer than two minutes which is about 300 words or 1 full page. Don't worry if you go a little bit over or under, the most important thing is that you choose something you feel comfortable with and excited about performing.

You'll perform your piece in a supportive group setting during the workshop.

Also, think about how you would answer questions about yourself and your ambitions for the future. It's a great opportunity to show us who you are and what interests you!

GYC Musical Theatre Pathway:

Prepare 1 monologue from any play of your own choice.

Your monologue should last no longer than two minutes which is about 300 words or 1 full page. Don't worry if you go a little bit over or under, the most important thing is that you choose something you feel comfortable with and excited about performing.

You'll perform your piece in a supportive group setting during the workshop.

Also, think about how you would answer questions about yourself and your ambitions for the future. It's a great opportunity to show us who you are and what interests you!

Prepare 2 contrasting songs of your own choice, 1 should be from a musical and 1 should be a pop/rock song.

The songs you choose to perform should showcase your vocal range and ability to act and tell a story through song. The songs you choose should be selected to help us understand your vocal abilities.

You can sing your 2 chosen songs in full or if you wish to 'cut' your songs into a shorter audition edit, you should sing at least 1 full verse and chorus of each.

There will be a pianist to accompany all singing auditions, therefore you should bring your sheet music, clearly marked with any cuts to your chosen workshop.

If you would prefer to perform your song to a backing track, then you should bring this with you on a USB hard drive, or on a device that we can connect to a speaker. You can also send us your backing tracks in advance if you prefer, and we can set them up on our system ahead of your audition.

You must NOT use backing tracks that require you to stream from the internet.

You cannot choose to sing acapella. All singing auditions must be performed with either the pianist, or to backing track.

If you need any help in preparing your backing tracks, please contact our team who will be happy to help and advise you.

gyc@blackpoolgrand.co.uk

Preparation for Dance Auditions:

There is nothing to prepare for your dance audition, however if you can tap, you should bring your tap shoes for a short, additional tap audition that will take place at the end of the main call.

DO YOU HAVE ANY TIPS OR ADVICE FOR CHOOSING A MONOLOGUE OR SONG?

When choosing a monologue or song to perform at audition, keep these tips in mind:

- Pick something that relates to you and your experiences.
- Don't choose a character who is way older than you are.
- Show off your personality and the type of performance you enjoy. Are you naturally funny? Choose a comedic song or monologue! Prefer serious performances? Go for a dramatic piece.
- Choose something that tells a story and keeps the audience engaged and interested.
- If your character is supposed to have a specific accent that you can't do, just perform it using your own, natural accent.
- When choosing a song, try and pick something that shows off your vocal abilities as they currently are. Don't choose a song that is way out of your range. Remember you are auditioning to come and train with us; therefore we are looking to see if you can demonstrate ability that can be improved upon with training.

WHERE CAN I FIND A MONOLOGUE OR SONG?

- Your local library will usually have a selection of playscripts and books containing monologues. Ask at the main desk during your visit and the library team should be able to help you.
- Sheet Music for pop/rock and musical theatre songs is widely available on the internet from sites such as musicnotes.com and sheetmusicdirect.com
- karaokeversion.com and other similar websites provide downloadable backing tracks at extremely low prices.

Click the link below to find out where your closest local library is in Blackpool. You could call in advance and see if they have any monologue books for young people in store.

<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Libraries-arts-and-heritage/Libraries/Blackpool-libraries.aspx>

- If you are still in school or college, speak to teachers in your Drama and English departments and ask if they have access to any books containing monologues.
- If you want to search online, use the words '**monologues for young people**' and Google will help you find lots of different options.
- If you are still in school or college, speak to teachers in your Music department for help in sourcing and accessing audition songs.

WHAT DO I NEED TO WEAR AT THE AUDITION?

Please wear sensible clothing and footwear (soft-soled, no heels). Please come in comfortable, loose clothing. Please do not wear jewellery or anything that might prohibit your movement or cause an injury whilst dancing.

For the Musical Theatre Pathway audition, please bring tap dance shoes if you have them. You do not need to purchase any for the audition if you do not have them already.

I HAVE ACCESS NEEDS, WHO SHOULD I CONTACT?

We are committed to inclusivity and value diversity. If you have any access needs or require assistance before or during the audition workshop, let us know on the application form.

You can also contact us to discuss your requirements ahead of time by sending an email to: gyc@blackpoolgrand.co.uk

BURSARIES, FEES, AND FUNDING

We believe that everyone deserves a fair chance to participate in the Grand Young Company, regardless of their background or financial situation.

If you would love to join GYC but feel that the costs are too high, then we will try to help you break down financial barriers by awarding you with a free or half-price bursary place.

Some of the circumstances that might make you eligible for a bursary following a successful audition include:

- You're aged 14-19 and currently in care or a care leaver
- You're aged 14-19 and seeking asylum in the UK
- You're aged 14-19 and a full-time-carer for a parent or sibling
- You're a single parent and aged 14-19
- You're under 18 and receiving free school meals
- You're experiencing homelessness
- You're receiving benefits
- You are from or living in a low household income

We understand that everyone's situation is unique, so if you feel the list above does not relate to your current circumstances, but you still require a bursary to join the GYC should your audition be successful, then we are happy to discuss this with you or if you are under 18 years of age, your parent or guardian.

If you want to apply for a bursary place, please make sure you check the relevant box during your application. Once your application has been submitted, a member of the team will get in touch with you or your parent or guardian to discuss your application in the strictest of confidence.

You will never be treated differently because you have applied for, or received a bursary place.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE AUDITION?

After the auditions, our creative team will review all applications and make decisions on who will join GYC for the 2024/2025 season. They will assess your suitability for training and working on our upcoming projects.

We're looking for a diverse and inclusive group of young people who represent our community. We don't discriminate based on ethnicity, gender, sexuality, or disability. Bullying, harassment, and exclusion have no place in our company.

You'll receive an email with the outcome of your audition within 4 weeks of the audition. If a recall audition is needed, you'll receive another email that includes a choice of recall dates and instructions.

WHAT IS A RECALL AUDITION?

A recall audition is a second-stage audition that we will use from time to time if we feel we need to learn a little more about you and your suitability for joining the company. It gives us a second chance to meet with you and will be a very informal audition where we will get time to chat and see your audition pieces again.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T GET A RECALL OR OFFERED A PLACE?

Keep dreaming, keep applying!

We only have a very limited number of spaces for new GYC members, and we expect a high number of applications, so unfortunately, not everyone will be accepted for the 2024/2025 season.

Not successful this time? That's okay! We encourage you to reapply for the 2025/2026 season.

Applications are open now!

If you wish to be notified of future auditions and other upcoming opportunities for young people to get involved with The Grand Theatre's creative programme, keep your eyes on the website or contact gyc@blackpoolgrand.co.uk

READY TO APPLY FOR A SPACE AT OUR OPEN WORKSHOP AUDITIONS?

Please book onto your chosen pathway audition below.

Acting Pathway: <https://forms.office.com/e/YKzF650gGW>

Musical Theatre Pathway: <https://forms.office.com/e/4ERrY18Adi>