

ONLINE PERFORMANCE TIPS

TIP #1: Focus on the positives.

- Students can develop plenty of skills during these experiences: memorization, annunciation, character development, character physicalization, etc.

TIP #2: Focus on vocal clarity and projection.

- If a student doesn't project, Zoom won't acknowledge the new speaker and show them on screen. If they want to be shown, they need to be loud and clear!

TIP #3: Practice mic and camera procedures.

- Practice entrances and exits prior to the performance with microphone mutes and camera on/off.
- Connect students' actions in online performance to their live performances. Practice transitions!

Tip #4: Emphasize memorization.

- Acting is acting. It makes a difference when students are focused on delivering their character to the camera, and when they're reading something to the side of the screen.

TIP #5: There is a place for tech. It's different, but don't push it to the side.

- Encourage conversations around flexibility, problem solving and creativity.
- Practice mic and camera procedures; discuss silent gesture cues; plan costuming with items from home; identify how sound can be used; discuss zoom backgrounds.

TIP #6: Establish audience etiquette.

- Send out an email with specific instructions for your audience (eg: The show will be 30 minutes, The audience will be admitted from the waiting room ten minutes prior to the show)
- Have your stage manager remind audience members to turn off their cameras/mics.



Tip #7: Technology is not necessarily your friend.

- Things will not be perfect - inconsistent sound, dropped calls, poor mic quality, low bandwidth etc.
- Have an emergency line reader (a good job for an assistant stage manager) in case an actor loses connection or gets kicked out of the call. Keep the flow of the show going as best you can.

Tip #8: Be prepared for no shows during rehearsals and adjust accordingly.

- Talk to students about being ready to take on additional roles and have them practice taking on other parts so that it's comfortable for them.

Tip #9: Use play driven backgrounds, thumbnails, names.

- All actors should use their character names, and change their thumbnails to reflect their character or use images that visualize play themes.
- Discuss appropriate backgrounds with your tech students.

Tip #10: Celebrate student accomplishments!

- Give students a curtain call by letting them turn on their camera and wave at the end. Have your SM read aloud every actor's name.
- Let the audience turn on their cameras/mics so they can clap and cheer!