



AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS & TIPS

IMPORTANT PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Please note, current Cast It Talent members should log in and submit their audition from the Roles section of the CIT web site. You will need to upload your audition video (using the instructions on the following pages) and submit it as part of a package.

PROJECT: About a Boy
CASTING: Cami Patton

Before you start your audition:

Find a quiet room that has very little or no background noise. TV's, fans, running water and air conditioning can be distracting. Make sure you are taping in front of a plain wall and that the main light source comes from behind the camera. Don't film in front of a window(s) -- this will create a silhouette, not good for shooting. Try to position the actor a few feet away from the wall to avoid shadows. Your camera should ideally sit on a tripod to maintain a steady image. If you don't have a tripod, make sure you can put the camera on a stable surface. Record a test sample and see how it looks and sounds on the computer first to make final adjustments before taping the scenes. If you can't see or hear yourself well, we won't be able to either.

Taping Instructions:

Step 1 - The "Slate"

- Start by zooming the camera out as wide as possible for a full body shot, then zoom in for your medium headshot (chest up). Have the actor look **RIGHT INTO THE CAMERA** and answer these questions (a reader can ask questions):
 - Your name
 - State your age
 - Where do you live?
 - How tall are you?
 - You can now start the scene – make sure you are standing for all scenes

Step 2 - Record the Scenes attached

- Record your audition using the scenes attached at the end of this document
- Read the helpful tips below to make sure your video looks as professional as possible!

Helpful tips for a good audition video:

- Please read the script beforehand. We need you to be prepared and as off-book as possible.

- The wall behind you should ideally be white or blue. Try to position yourself a few feet away from the wall to avoid shadows.
- Make sure the main light source comes from behind the camera, since you want the viewer to be able to see your face clearly. (Don't film in front of a window – this will create a silhouette, not good for shooting.)
- Your camera should ideally sit on a tripod to maintain a steady image. If you don't have a tripod, make sure you can put the camera on a stable surface.
- Frame CHEST UP - not too much headroom. Make sure we can see your face.
- Record a test sample and see how it looks and sounds on the computer first to make final adjustments before taping the scenes. If you can't see or hear yourself well, we won't be able to either.
- Make sure your camera is positioned at eye level or slightly above. Do not shoot from under your chin – no one looks good that way!
- Make sure to get a good reader to read the lines opposite you. Your reader should stand RIGHT NEXT TO THE CAMERA, almost straddling the tripod. Direct your lines to your reading partner so that your eye line is not into the camera, but just slightly off, connecting with your reading partner's eyes.

Please contact Cast It Talent support at 'talentsupport@castitsystems.com'. We'll be glad to help!

Ready to Upload: How to Submit Your Audition

- Follow the instructions for Windows or Mac to digitize the video (instructions can be found on the main page of the open call web site)
- When you are ready to submit the audition video, go back to the open call web site, select your role and click "submit". You will need to fill out your information when prompted in order to upload your video, headshot and resume

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - DAY

Marcus enters the terrifying war zone that is a middle school cafeteria. Everywhere he looks, terror lurks. Dressed in his weird glasses and weird hat and unhip wardrobe, he looks like a complete freak. It turns out a San Francisco public middle school is full of the same terrifying people as the public school in El Segundo -- he passes tables of Jocks, Losers, Developed Girls, Druggies, Nerds. The one unifying characteristic of all of these groups seems to be that they all think Marcus is a freak. He starts to sit at an empty table, but before he can a hand comes into frame and pulls the chair out. He is face to face with DOUG (13), a mean shit head. Around him, a POSSE of bullies.

DOUG

Don't even think about sitting here, freak.

Marcus moves along to another empty table as Doug hurls a milk carton at Marcus, it splatters all over him.

BULLY

Nice hat, homo.

Marcus sits at a table. Reaches into his lunch bag and opens a container of gluten free pudding. Starts to eat.

INT. WILL'S APARTMENT - ANOTHER EVENING

Will is preparing for a date with Dakota. He pours wine. Puts out cheese and crackers. He has the sexy time music playing and he's totally dancing to it. There's a knock on the door.

**START →
SCENE!**

WILL

Someone's early!

He opens the door. It's Marcus. He looks out of breath and scared. Will looks up and sees DOUG and the other bullies from the cafeteria standing on the corner. It doesn't take much to realize they have been antagonizing Marcus.

MARCUS

My mom isn't home. And anyway, I, um, I think I lost a ball in your yard the other day.

WILL

Uh, sure. Come on in.

Marcus walks in. Will takes a last look at the bullies and closes the door.

1/11

Marcus walks in and immediately notices Will's home recording studio, his prized guitar collection. Will heads to the backyard and looks for Marcus's ball.

MARCUS

So whatever happened to Fortitude?

WILL

My band? That was years ago. How do you know about my band?

MARCUS

Googled it. What's it like to be arrested?

WILL

I'd prefer if you didn't Google me.

MARCUS

It's not really up to you. So you wrote that Christmas song? "Santa's Super Sleigh?"

WILL

Yes, I hate that song.

MARCUS

So does my Mom.

WILL

She does?

MARCUS

Did you get a lot of money for it?

WILL

A ton.

Will comes back from the yard.

WILL (CONT'D)

Dude, there's no ball here, and I have someone coming over.

MARCUS

Like a girl?

WILL

Like a woman.

MARCUS

Why don't you date my mom instead? She's single.

2/11

WILL

Yes, you mentioned that.

MARCUS

You should come over for dinner. Do you like soy cheese?

WILL

Yeah, that won't be happening.

There's a knock on the door.

WILL (CONT'D)

Damn.

Will opens the door. It's Dakota.

WILL (CONT'D)

Hello...!

DAKOTA

Hi...!

MARCUS

(to Will, under)

My mom has brown hair too.

Dakota sees Marcus and completely melts.

DAKOTA

Oh my God! You must be Jonah!

Dakota engulfs a confused Marcus in a hug. OFF Will...

Continue →

END OF ACT ONE

3/11

ACT TWO

INT. WILL'S CONDO - SECONDS LATER

Dakota, Will and Marcus are walking in.

Continue →

WILL

Actually, Jonah was just leaving.
He has a friend next door.

DAKOTA

Jonah, from everything I've heard
about you, it's just an honor
meeting you. You are so brave.

MARCUS

I don't know what you're talking
about.

DAKOTA

You're so humble. Tell me what it
was like in Africa.

MARCUS

I've never been to Africa.

WILL

He blocks it out. He's having a
night terror.

DAKOTA

It's day time.

WILL

Not in Africa.

MARCUS

I don't know what you're--

Will grabs Marcus, pulls his face into his chest and wraps
him in a hug--

WILL

~~He just starts shaking and
creaming. The only thing you can
do is hold him.~~

(looks right at Marcus)

Jonah, don't say anything, Jonah.
Don't speak. Just take breaths.
Jonah. Jonah.

4/11

DAKOTA

So he doesn't remember anything
about the leukemia? The sweat
lodges? The voodoo?

Marcus looks at Will. It's all sinking in. This is a huge lie
and Will needs Marcus to be part of it. He needs him. Huh,
interesting.

MARCUS

I think I know what's going on, and
I have to tell you the truth.

Will looks at Marcus, terrified.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

I would say that if it wasn't for
my father, I would be dead right
now. I owe him my life. Dad...

Marcus walks to Will and gives him a huge tight hug. Dakota
melts. Marcus whispers in Will's ear.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

You owe me. Big.

OFF Will...

STOP

~~INT: ANDY AND LAURIE'S APARTMENT - LATER~~

~~Andy cooks dinner. Will is helping sort of, chopping onions.
Laurie is with the kids, taking care of them~~

~~LAURIE~~

~~Really, Will? You invented a kid
and then you gave him leukemia?~~

~~WILL~~

~~But I cured him. I'm an imaginary
miracle worker.~~

~~LAURIE~~

~~This is how you spend your time?
Did you even crack the book I gave
you on Godparenting?~~

~~WILL~~

~~Yes, riveting.~~

~~LAURIE~~

~~Really?~~

5/11

WILL

So one by one, all my friends get married, they start having kids, and their lives as they know it are taken away from them. My friend Andy? Has to ask permission to go out and shoot hoops.

MARCUS

What a puss.

WILL

Exactly. To Freedom!

MARCUS

To Freedom!

INT. WILL'S CONDO - ANOTHER DAY

Will opens the door, Marcus walks in. Will rolls his eyes, but he is getting used to this.

INT. WILL'S CONDO - DAY

Will and Marcus play chess. Marcus is beating Will. Will thinks long and hard and finally moves his knight. Marcus immediately captures it with a pawn.

START →
SCENE 2

WILL

Shoot! Can I take that back?

MARCUS

Better to lose with dignity.

WILL

You're right. More guac?

MARCUS

Sure.

They get up. As Will goes to the fridge Marcus turns on a synthesizer and starts hitting some keys.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

What do you do with this?

WILL

That machine turns an ordinary white man into a brother. Check it out.

Will pokes out a melody on the keyboard.

6/11

WILL (CONT'D)

Pretty lame, right?

MARCUS

I like it.

WILL

Trust me. It's lame. Okay, now listen.

Will codes a rhythm into the synth, and the same melody plays, but now under a hip hop rhythm. Marcus is totally enchanted.

MARCUS

Wow.

Will totally dances to the beat. Cracks Marcus up. Then they go to the guac and chips. Marcus wonders whether to bring something up, then--

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Did you get made fun of at school?

Will gets that Marcus is going into territory that he's vulnerable about.

WILL

A little, I guess. Why? Do you?

MARCUS

Constantly. Everyone makes fun of me. Even the nice kids. I guess I bring it out in people.

WILL

And those kids that were standing on the corner the first day you came over? Were they hassling you?

MARCUS

If you call following me home from school and picking me up and throwing me headfirst into a trash bin hassling me, then yes.

WILL

You can't let them do that.

MARCUS

Thanks. Next time I'll activate my super powers.

Will tries to figure out what to say, then...

7/11

WILL

You just need to find your thing.
When I was in middle school, I
discovered music.

MARCUS

Me too. I'm gonna sing in my school
talent show. I'm kind of doing it
to cheer up my Mom.

WILL

Why, is she sad?

MARCUS

She cries sometimes. Which again,
is why you should come over for
dinner.

WILL

As much as I love a crying woman...

MARCUS

I'm not asking you to date her
anymore. Maybe you could at least
be friends with her. Please.

WILL

Marcus...

MARCUS

If you needed me to be Jonah again,
I'd do it.

OFF Will, stuck, we, PRELAP: two voices singing Adele's
"Someone Like You," and --

~~INT. FIONA'S CONDO - ANOTHER NIGHT~~

~~Fiona plays piano. Marcus stands next to her. They sing in
two part harmony with complete reverence. They're both really
into it, both belting it out. It's super uncool. And super
endearing.~~

~~FIONA & MARCUS~~~~Never mind, I'll find someone like
you/I wish nothing but the best for
you too...~~

~~PAN TO REVEAL: Will watching this remarkably strange sight, a
frozen smile glued on. They get to the end of the song. They
turn to Will. Will is frozen until he just starts clapping.~~

8/11

STOP

Andy follows Will. But Will stops, seeing Dakota in the audience with her daughters.

WILL (CONT'D)

Hey. Listen, about the other day...

DAKOTA

Do not talk to me. Don't ever talk to me.

They continue down the aisle.

ANDY

Are there any women here you haven't pissed off?

INT. BACKSTAGE - MOMENTS LATER

The rest of the acts are all groups, but Marcus stands alone. Will runs up to him.

START →
SCENE
3

WILL

Marcus.

MARCUS

What are you doing here?

On stage the EMCEE announces--

EMCEE

And now, performing Adele's "Someone Like You," Marcus Bowa.

WILL

Look, Marcus, I don't think this is a good idea.

MARCUS

You won't be my mom's friend and my singing makes her happy.

The Emcee turns to Marcus...

EMCEE

Marcus!

WILL

Don't go out there.

MARCUS

So just walk away from it. Figures that would be your advice.

9/11

WILL

Listen, I'm sorry if I was harsh the other day, but I'm not nearly as harsh as middle schoolers. They suck. They're cruel and mean and they have long memories. Do not go out there, Marcus. I'm serious.

MARCUS

You're talking to me like we're friends. We're not friends. Remember?

Will watches helplessly as Marcus walks out to the stage. There's a single spotlight on him. Even before he opens his mouth there are giggles from the audience.

Marcus looks at Will backstage, then turns back to the audience.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

This is dedicated to my best friend. My Mom.

Will cringes. This couldn't get any worse. Until he starts to sing.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

I heard that you're settled down. That you found a girl and you're married now...

~~At first, the audience watches with stunned open mouthed expressions. But as Marcus continues, the giggling increases.~~

Hearing the giggles, Marcus realizes he is going down in a blaze of glory. Nothing else to do, he just digs deeper and sings even louder. The laughter grows. The BULLIES throw heckles out from the darkness.

ON WILL -- he can't let this happen. Looks to Andy, who has just arrived--

WILL

We've got to do something.

He turns and sees a synthesizer set up for one of the acts.

IN THE AUDIENCE

Fiona watches, pained, as the entire school laughs at her child. Will was right.

10/11

Dakota watches, feeling for Marcus. As one of her daughters lets out a giggle, she sternly shushes her.

Continue →

MARCUS

I hate to turn up out of the blue
uninvited/But I couldn't stay away,
I couldn't fight it./I had hoped
you'd see my face and that you'd be
reminded/That for me it isn't over.

Then suddenly, the stage goes black. It's totally dark. Confusion in the audience. / STOP

Then, a HIP HOP BEAT comes from the darkness. The same beat that Will played earlier.

ON MARCUS in the darkness, is that the beat he recognizes?

AT THE LIGHT BOARD - Andy hands a PIMPLY KID a twenty, and he punches some keys and the stage lights come up with a sexy blue glow.

ON STAGE

Marcus, as confused as everyone, turns and sees next to him on stage - WILL! The synthesizer is in front of him.

Will looks at Marcus, smiles. Marcus looks at him, still completely confused, but moved to see Will come to his aid.

WILL

Two, three, four...

Marcus and Will start singing the chorus together to the syncopated hip hop beat.

WILL AND MARCUS

Never mind, I'll find someone like
you/I wish nothing but the best for
you too...

The Audience starts to get into it. With the hip hop beat and the lights, Will has turned this into something cool. Well, cooler than it was.

WILL AND MARCUS (CONT'D)

Don't forget me, I beg/I remember
you said/Sometimes it lasts in love
but sometimes it hurts instead/
Sometimes it lasts in love but
sometimes it hurts instead.

||
/||