

Your Resume and Headshot

Destination Broadway 2009

Here is an **option** for 2009 students. You may submit your resume and headshot to New York BEFORE Destination Broadway. These resumes and headshots will be reviewed **prior** to Destination Broadway.

Background

A current resume and headshot are essential tools for a serious performer in Musical Theater. Many times they are used to decide **if you will even be seen in person!** Your resume and headshot tell who you are, what skills and training you have, and they help determine if you are suitable for a particular part. The subject is so important that we will hear from a Broadway casting agent about resumes and headshots at the Sunday evening orientation at Destination Broadway.

After an audition, your resume is a resource for the casting team. It tells them how to get in touch with you. Many times your resume is used as a reference for future work. You really would not want to have a “perfect” audition and leave behind an incomplete or sloppy “calling card”. If you are willing to present a mediocre resume, what kind of performance can be expected?

As part of your Destination Broadway experience and training, we will focus on creating **your** effective resume and headshot.

How To Create Your Effective Resume

There are numerous resources that can be helpful if you do not have a resume already. Google “musical theater resumes” and you will find excellent guidelines and helpful hints. There are examples and even templates that you can fill in. Here’s a great quote from one of the resume websites.

“Making it in theater, especially musical theater, is as tough as anything in the world. The producers and directors you audition for must be impressed with your resume as well as your audition. You’ll need to make your resume stand out, but in the right way.”

Here are a few points about resumes that we want to emphasize.

1. Your resume should provide effective ways to get in touch with you. Phone numbers, especially cell phone numbers, are important. Use an e-mail address too. Do not put your actual physical address. You never know who may actually see this resume. They do not need to know your address.

2. Make it short and sweet. Don’t fill space with trivia in an effort to make your resume fill pages and pages. One page is excellent.

3. Resist the temptation to be cute or pretty. No funky fonts. No “pink” ink. No cute graphics. Professional musical theater is “show business”, so make it businesslike.
4. Put down all important skills that you have. Are you an excellent guitar player? Can you juggle? Are you an accomplished gymnast? You never know what additional skill may set you apart. If it's real, put it down.
5. List all training that you have had. Ballet, tap, vocal lessons, choir, etc, are all important.
6. Your resume is a work in progress. It will never be “finished”. You will learn many things this summer and your resume will change. As you add more skills and training, your resume will change. Each time you are in a performance, your resume changes. Keep it updated.

Your Headshot.

A headshot is exactly that. It's a headshot. Normally these are on 8 ½" X 11" paper. A wallet sized photo just won't do. It is helpful if your name is at the bottom of your photo.

Many times your headshot is stapled to the back of your resume. That way, they stay together. That is an excellent idea and we would like you to do that with the resume and headshot you send to New York.

For the purposes of this exercise with Destination Broadway, **DO NOT** have an expensive portfolio of photos taken. A good quality photo of you (a head and shoulders picture) will be fine. You can fulfill this requirement easily and inexpensively with a digital camera and a printer.

Sometimes people prefer black and white photos. Sometimes they prefer color. We'll hear from a casting agent about which is preferred. You may submit either.

The photo should look like YOU. This is not a glamour shot contest. Someone should be able to look at your photo and then recognize you coming through the door!

Send Your Resume and Headshot to New York City by June 30th.

Destination Broadway
Attn: Michael Rafter/ Valerie Wright
244 5th Avenue, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10001

Bring a copy of your resume and headshot with you to Destination Broadway. The one you mail to New York City will not be returned to you.

A Final Thought

Do not worry about your resume and headshot! This is a learning experience, not a test.

Some of you will be making your first musical theater resume ever. Some of you have excellent resumes and headshots already. In fact, a few of you wouldn't go **ANYWHERE** without them! The purpose of this exercise is to learn as much as you can about the subject and improve for the future.