

The Sting of Rejection

Nope, didn't even make the callbacks. There was a message waiting when I got home the day after stating that I did not make the show. It's been a long time since I didn't make a show. This is not what it sounds like- in recent history I have only tried out for Oliver! and It's a Wonderful Life before Dracula. I didn't even try out for Jekyll & Hyde, only responded to a plea for more actors. Unfortunately along with a rejection comes a void that can't be filled, a void of never knowing why. Was something wrong with my audition? It was only a singing audition and I feel I sang just fine. The accompanist didn't always keep up- was that counted against me? I did a performance, not just the song. Maybe I should have stood there and just sang? Maybe my hair which I forgot to get cut bothered them? Maybe they used the "Will you be willing to be in the ensemble/chorus" question as a weed-out tool- I said no because I would rather try out for Noah than be in the chorus- at my age I have this privilege, do I not? Did someone find this blog and see I would rather be in Noah? Was it even about me at all? I do know it is a relatively small cast for two groups- yes it is a joint production between two groups. Oh, well. I am now free to try out for Noah whenever those auditions happen, assuming they don't just pre-cast it since there is such a small cast. If I make the show I will know for sure not making Dracula was a God thing (someone was praying for me). Of course, considering the message of the Dracula story, it may just be a God thing no matter what happens.

Come to think of it, I was rejected more recently- when I did a general tryout for Metropolis last summer. I was never called back for anything. Well, that was professional theatre so it was expected. I do so wish I could just call and ask, but I know that would be improper, so I will just continue to wonder.

It is done

Today was the day I prepared for all week. Audition day. The shortest audition ever, but that was to be expected- I suppose if they do any sort of callbacks it will be for the individual show at its appointed time. You see, I auditioned for the entire season, making these auditions sort of a cattle call. I had three minutes to impress them and I hope I did. I sang from "Race you to the Top of the Morning" from The Secret Garden (see post from a couple of days ago to a link to a video of someone's performance of this song) and ended up doing a character monologue from my church drama from a couple of years ago- an absent-minded scientist named Dr. Quack. I think I did a pretty good job, but I won't know if I got a part in any show for a while I'm sure, maybe not until the time of the show. I should have asked- oh, well. I didn't make the best exit either, with a simple "take care" as I exited, though I did remember to thank them for hearing me. It is time to, as I read somewhere, set this audition aside and prepare for the next. Incidentally I did finally find a website that shows several community theatre groups unlike the one where I found out about these auditions which is 95% professional theatre. The site is [Green Room Online](#) and covers the greater Chicago area, including eastern Indiana. Note- the information on the main page is outdated, but the links at the top bring up pages with more current information

The biggest concern I had about this audition was the cold I naturally came down with a few days ago, but God was merciful and allowed me to be able to sing and do my monologue without trouble today. I started coughing again tonight, but I don't mind. Another concern earlier this week was that I have no

piano, and no ability if I did to play the accompaniment. The last time I sang this song with accompaniment was when I auditioned for Les Mis some years back. The solution was to find software that could scan the music and become the accompaniment. After a few tries, I found Finale PrintMusic 2010 which works nicely despite a couple of annoying bugs. The demo was unlimited too, though expires after 30 days so it can no longer save. No big deal for now. Maybe I will scan in some other songs while I can. Of course, you already know about the third concern- a monologue. I had also read that a monologue should be from an actual show, so that's where I started. I checked out a couple of books from the library including a book of Neil Simon monologues. Unfortunately comedic monologues to contrast with my choice of songs were few and far between. I did like one from California Suite, but it was over three minutes! I talked with a former professional actor at church last weekend and he assured me that an original monologue would actually be better to avoid comparison to other actors they have seen performing the role/monologue, so I chose one that he had written, and I performed already a couple of years before, the one described above. The plus side to that was I already had it mostly memorized since I performed it no less than a dozen or two times- it was the intro spoken every week, slightly modified.

So, as I already mentioned, it is over- all I can do is wait. The next big event for me now? Just look at my countdown timer- less than eight days to go as of this writing. □

Busy Weekend

I will blog about that soon, but I will just say for now I was in Southern Illinois the entire weekend, or driving there or back. Monday I had my usual busy day. I tried to blog yesterday but the allergy pills I took for my headache just zonked me out. I must say, for a new position with higher pay I certainly don't feel those newfound funds. I guess another \$500 car bill last month and \$300 for an eye doctor visit and contacts will do that. That in addition to the medical insurance I finally purchased and the property tax bill I am trying to save for. None of this will keep me away this weekend, or keep me from spending money, mind you! I have plenty for that.

So what has been going on? Well, my boss has been taking some time off because her brother was critically injured in a motorcycle accident (or some sort of motorized scooter I'm told, as if that makes a difference. Last I heard he was in a coma and they were going to take him off the pain medication to see if that would shock his system enough to wake him up. Yikes. In addition, her father was admitted to another hospital shortly after, though I forget why. So I am covering for her as best I can as far as technical things go. I was on the phone for awhile this morning trying to get a couple of our people in Florida up and running- this while training someone on the handheld computer who is back with us after leaving some months ago before his training was complete. Oh, and I just learned today another employee of our company was involved in a motorcycle accident, and her father had a medical problem (a heart attack in his case) happen at the same time as well. ☐

Now I have learned my brother is extremely upset about some damage to the classic Mustang sitting in our garage. Apparently someone, probably me I suppose, put a ladder in the wrong place and some boxes just happened to fall on the ladder, causing it to fall on the car. My brother was ranting on the phone yesterday and today with my mother. One of the unfair things he brought into play were our Christian values, as if we were purposely trying to cover it up. Really? Christian values? How about not making an idol of worldly possessions to a point where you yell at your mother for over a half-hour in three calls (which she had the grace to not just hang up on) and threaten to “disown us” if we don’t fix it? My nephew, who is the actual owner of the car mind you, has made an assessment of his own that it can’t be fixed for less than many thousands of dollars due to the tiny dent (I couldn’t even find it) being in a bad spot. He said he won’t make us pay for it, but I asked him to find out some time how much it really would be. Lovely, we need our roof reshingled and new windows, but now we might have to pay to have a tiny dent fixed.

So... In more positive news, I have made an appointment to audition at our local professional theatre. My day to go is June 12. I need to get a new headshot done somewhere (hopefully they don’t cost too much) and I need to write a new résumé. More importantly, I need to come up with a monologue. I expect I will sing a selection from my usual song from the Secret Garden, [Race you to the Top of the Morning](#), but I’m not sure about the monologue. Someone has recommended I do something from Oliver! since I played Fagin a few years ago. A site, [musicaltheatreaudition.com](#), says I should **not** use an accent unless specifically asked to and I couldn’t imagine playing Fagin without one, so I don’t know. I do know that since the song is dramatic the monologue should be comedic. Many other tips involve knowing what one is

actually trying out for, but I am trying out for an entire season, and one show is even listed as "unknown musical." The song and the monologue have to total no more than three minutes, so I have my work cut out for me- but at least I have a couple of weeks. Any recommendations anyone?