“DO NOT” LISTS – OVERDONE SONGS AND MONOLOGUES

“DO NOT” lists can be controversial but can also be a great starting place to figure out if your singing something everyone else will be singing as well.  The following can serve as a starting place for your rep search.  I will update this list as I receive updates from agents, colleagues, etc. Remember, You want to Make Your Self Stand Out! Be different! What do you have to offer that others can’t? I often suggest that you go into an audition thinking you will be the VERY LAST PERSON ON THE VERY LAST DAY OF AN AUDITION – How will you make yourself stand out when the auditioners are tired and want to see something original?

**In general:**

Nothing with excessive profanity

Nothing that puts yourself up on a pedestal/says look at me!  (i.e. Gorgeous from Apple Tree)

Nothing with excessive sexual innuendo

Do not play a mentally challenged person

No monologues about giving birth or being a mother (you are too young)

Do not ask rhetorical questions of a sexual nature to the audition panel

Nothing from a current Broadway show

Nothing made famous by a specific artist (i.e. Barbara Streisand or Kristin Chenoweth)

**From a top agent in NYC:**

* Anything Jason Robert Brown
* Anything from Phantom of the Opera
* Girl in 14 G
* Taylor the Latte Boy
* Gorgeous (Apple Tree)
* Take a Chance on Me
* Run Away with Me
* I Gotta Run
* Neverland (Scott Alan)
* Mama Says
* Not for the Life of Me (still)
* Gimme Gimme (still)
* Screw Loose (this has been HUGE lately, and it’s just not a good audition song — kind of like Privilege to Pee — just screechy and annoying)
* Privilege to Pee
* Here I Am
* Astonishing (still!)

**Top Monologues:**

* Squeaky Fromme from Assassins
* Darleen Dances
* Bridal Registry from A My Name is Still Alice
* Belize’s monologue about the national anthem from Angels in America
* Mom’s Ashes from I Think I Love You — I can’t BELIEVE this is STILL so popular… it is really getting ridiculous
* Murder Your Fish/Mess up your life a little… don’t know what it’s from but it must be in a monologue book somewhere because HOLY COW
* Diana from Moving (Quaker school… awards… someone is going to prick your bubble)
* The “First Chair” monologue

From: <http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/performance/auditions/overdoneauditionsongs.html>

* Good Morning Baltimore from [Hairspray](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/hairspray.html)
* On My Own from [Les Miserables](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/lesmis.html)
* Adelaide’s Lament from [Guys and Dolls](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/guysndolls.html) (why are teenagers always singing this? the character has been engaged for 14 years!)
* Memory from [Cats](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/cats.html)
* I Hate Men from [Kiss Me Kate](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/kissmekate.html)
* All That Jazz from [Chicago](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/chicago.html)
* Wash That Man… from [South Pacific](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/southpacific.html)
* Can’t Help Lovin’… from [Show Boat](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/showboat.html)
* Big Spender from [Sweet Charity](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/sweetcharity.html)
* You Can Always… from [City of Angels](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/cityofangels.html)
* Shy from [Once Upon a Mattress](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/onceuponmattress.html)
* Tomorrow from [Annie](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/annie.html)
* I Enjoy Being A Girl from [Flower Drum Song](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/flowerdrumsong.html)
* Broadway Baby, Hard Hearted Hannah, Hit Me With a Hot Note from [Follies](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/follies.html)
* Surrey With The Fringe On Top & I Can’t Say No from [Oklahoma](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/oklahoma.html)
* They Call the Wind Mariah from [Paint Your Wagon](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/paintyourwagon.html)
* Corner of the Sky from [Pippin](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/pippin.html)
* Summertime from [Porgy & Bess](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/porgybess.html)
* The Music of the Night from [The Phantom of the Opera](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/phantom.html)
* Hero & Let’s Hear It For The Boy from [Footloose](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/footloose.html)
* Seasons of Love from [Rent](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/rent.html)
* Big Spender from [Sweet Charity](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/sweetcharity.html)
* Part Of Your World from [The Little Mermaid](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/littlemermaid.html)
* In My Own Little Corner from [Cinderella](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/cinderella.html)
* Popular from [Wicked](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/wicked.html)
* Anthem from [Chess](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/chess.html)
* This Is The Moment from [Jekyll & Hyde](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/jeckylhyde.html)

**Overdone Audition Songs Not Associated With A Specific Show**

* I Get a Kick Out of You
* Miss Bird
* Embracable You
* New York, New York

**Entire Overdone Shows That Directors Are Sick Of**

* Any show that the school you are auditioning for has done in the last two years.
* Whatever the “Hot New Musical” is…
* [The Sound of Music](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/soundofmusic.html)
* [A Chorus Line](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/achorusline.html)
* [Rent](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/rent.html)
* [Jekyll & Hyde](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/jeckylhyde.html)
* [Little Shop of Horrors](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/littleshophorrors.html)
* [Les Miserables](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/lesmis.html)
* [Phantom of the Opera](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/phantom.html)
* [Evita](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/evita.html)
* Almost everything by [Andrew Lloyd Webber](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/1composers/webber.htm)

**Watch Out For… Songs that are Problematic**

(These songs may not necessarily be overdone, but have something that may make them inappropriate for auditions)

* Over The Rainbow from [The Wizard of Oz](http://www.musicaltheatreaudition.com/shows/wizardoz.html) (this song belongs to Judy Garland)
* Any other “Signature Song”

**From My Experience Behind the Table**(seeing a lot of people performing these)

* Pulled
* I believe from Book of Mormon (although I love it, so go ahead and sing if for Shenandoah
* Live Out Loud
* Pretty Funny from “Dogfight”
* How ’bout a dance (again, I like it so feel free to sing it at SU)

**Monologues for Guys – Overdone
laywright/Year first produced/Character/Identifying line or topic**
ALBEE/Zoo Story/1959/JERRY/Jerry and the dog
ANDERSON/I Never Sang for my Father/1967/GENE/That night I left my father’s house
ANDERSON/I Never Sang for my Father/1967/ALL OTHERS
ANDERSON/Tea and Sympathy/1953/Tom
BAITZ/Ten Unknowns/2001/Judd/Speeches to Malcolm
BAITZ/Other Desert Cities/2012/TRIP/Revelations about his life to his sister
BAITZ/Substance of Fire/1992/MARTIN/I spent most of my 16th year getting chemotherapy
BAITZ/Substance of Fire/1991/MARTIN/Publish Hustler or publish Proust
BOGOSIAN/The Fan, from Pounding Nails in the Ground with My Forehead/1993
BOGOSIAN/Suburbia/1994/JEFF/about moving to New York City
CRISTOFER/Shadow Box/1977/MARK/We’re dying here lady…
CRISTOFER/Shadow Box/1977/MARK/When I met Brian…
CRISTOFER/Lady and the Clarinet/1989/JACK/Swimming in the toilet bowl
DAVIS/Mass Appeal/1981/MARK/Dead goldfish speechx
DRESSER/Rounding Third/2002/Coach speaking to kids
DURANG/The Actor’s Nightmare/1981/GEORGE SPELVIN/Any of it
DURANG/Baby with the Bathwater/1983/DAISY/…I looked more like a boy than a girl
DURANG/Laughing Wild/1987/MAN/Tunafish monologue
DURANG/The Marriage of Bette & Boo/1973/ALL
FEIFFER/Feiffer’s People/1968/ALL
FEIFFER/Hold Me!/1977/ALL
FODOR/100 Saints You Should Know/2007/MATTHEW/These are the pictures…
GESNER/LIPPA/You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown/1967/ALL
GREENBERG/The American Plan/1990/NICK/I’m a rambling wreck
GREENBERG/Take Me Out/2002/MASON/Baseball convert speech
GREENBERG/Three Days of Rain/1998/Walker/ALL
GUARE/House of Blue Leaves/1986/Ronnie/ALL
GUARE/Six Degrees of Separation/1990/RICK/ Rainbow Room night
GUIRGIS/Jesus Hopped the A Train/2001/Angel/Skiing in Aspen
HERZOG/4000 Miles/2012/LEO/Chicken crash monologue
HOROVITZ/It’s Called the Sugar Plum/1968/ZUCKERMAN/Strudel-dee
HOROWITZ/It’s Called the Sugarplum/1968/ZUCKERMAN/Cellar door
IIZUKA/Aloha Say the Pretty Girls/1999/ALL
JOHNSON/Brilliant Traces/1988/HENRY HARRY/ALL
KATIMS/The Man Who Couldn’t Dance/2009/MAN/All versions
KAUFMAN & TECTONIC/Laramie Project/2000/ZEBEDIAH/Monologue competition
KORDER/Boys’ Life/1988/ALL
KORDER/Search and Destroy/1992/RON/ Baseball bat night at Shea stadium
KRAMER/Wall of Water/1998/ALL
LABUTE/Fat Pig/2004/ALL
LABUTE/Shape of Things/2002/Monologue at end about “This isn’t art”
LINDSAY-ABAIRE/Rabbit Hole/2005/JASON/Dear Mr. and Mrs. Corbett
LOGAN/Red/2011/KEN/…”try working for you for a living”
LONERGAN/This is Our Youth/1996/ALL
LONERGAN/Lobby Hero/2001/ALL
MAMET/American Buffalo/1992/TEACH/ALL
MAMET/Glengarry Glen Ross/1983/ALL
MAMET/Lakeboat/1970/ALL
MAMET/Sexual Perversity in Chicago/1974/BERNIE/Girl in the flak suit speech
MAMET/Speed the Plow/1988/ALL
MARGULIES/Dinner with Friends/1998/ALL
MARTIN/Jack and Jill/1996/JACK/Nice, right?
McCLURE/Lone Star/1980/ALL
McDonagh/The Pillowman/2003/ALL
MEE/Big Love/1999/Giuliano and Nikos monologues
MEE/True Love/2000/All Male
MOSES/The Four of Us/2008/All
PAPE/Say Goodnight Gracie/1978/JERRY/Chunky turkey soup speech
RABE/Hurlyburly/1984/ALL
RAPP/Red Light Winter/2005/ALL
REBECK/Dead Accounts/2012/JACK/Cheese Coney-New York food monologue
RIDLEY/The Pitchfork Disney/1991/PRESLEY/Frying the little green snake
RUDNICK/I Hate Hamlet/1991/ANDREW/Acting ‘To be or not to be’
SCHULNER/Infinite Ache/2005/CHARLES/Monologue about love
SHAFFER/Equus/1973/ALAN/ALL
SHANLEY/Danny and the Deep Blue Sea/1983/DANNY/ALL
SHANLEY/Italian-American Reconciliation/1989/ALL
SHANLEY/Beggars in the House of Plenty/1991/JOHN/ALL
SHEPARD/A Lie of the Mind/1985/JAKE/She was going to these goddamn rehearsals
SHERMAN/Sophistry/1993/ALL
SHERMAN/Women and Wallace/1996/WALLACE/ALL
SILVER/Free Will and Wanton Lust/1994/PHILIP/I don’t find my sex organs attractive
SILVER/Pterodactyls/1993/TODD/Dinosaur speech
SILVER/Raised in Captivity/1995/SEBASTIAN/Mr. Giggles the Clown
SIMON/Any/Virtually any young man’s monologue from Neil Simon’s major plays
SIMON/Biloxi Blues/1984/EUGENE/I was in the latrine…
SIMON/Jake’s Women/1992/JAKE/ALL
SONDHEIM/Assassins/1990/SAM BYCK/Speech about hijacking airplane
STOPPARD/Rosencrantz and Guildenstern…/1966/ROSENCRANTZ/Lying in a box
TAYLOR&BOLOGNA/Lovers and Other Strangers/1968/ALL
TESICH/Division Street/1980/ALL MEN’S/(orgasm, boat people, etc.)
WELLER/Loose Ends/1979/PAUL/Happy Birthday. Do you like it? (abortion speech)
WILLIAMS/The Glass Menagerie/1944/TOM/ALL
WILSON/Burn This/1987/PALE/1st Monologue
WILSON/Fifth of July/1980/ALL
WRIGHT/The Pavillion/2005/PETER/ALL

**One Last Thought**

Almost every voice teacher in this country owns the Musical Theatre Anthology published by Hal Leonard.  If the song you are planning to use is out of that book, there’s a strong possibility its overdone (not always) but if every voice teacher owns it, your odds for hearing others sing it are high.  To increase your chances of finding something unique, try finding songs from books specific to certain shows i.e. Vocal Selections from Aida.  If you have a library in your home town, try looking for complete vocal piano scores of Golden Age shows.  Also, remember most schools are only looking for a cut.  If there is a part of a larger ensemble piece or duet, but it makes a good cut, you can use it.