



FILE 03 · THE GEOGRAPHY

Where to Audition in NYC.

Studio buildings, Equity calls, casting offices, and open-call resources. The map of getting cast in New York.

NEPA·PRO TALENT

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The geography of getting cast.

Most New York auditions happen in roughly a dozen buildings within a six-block radius of Penn Station and Times Square. Once you know which is which, you stop getting lost — and you start running into the same actors again, which is the beginning of community.

THE BIG STUDIO BUILDINGS

Pearl Studios

500 8th Ave (35th & 8th) and 519 8th Ave · Midtown West

Two buildings, multiple floors, dozens of rehearsal and audition rooms. You will spend real hours of your life in Pearl. Bring a book. Bathrooms are at the end of each floor; the holding rooms can be packed during ECC days.

Ripley-Grier Studios

520 8th Ave (16th, 17th, 18th floors) and 939 8th Ave · Midtown West

Massive. The 520 location alone has dozens of rooms. Often the busiest audition building in the city. Watch the elevator banks during peak hours — you may need to change shoes before the holding room. Every working actor has a Ripley story.

Open Jar Studios

1601 Broadway, 11th floor · Theater District

Major Broadway and tour audition home. Bigger and nicer rooms than most. Dance calls happen here regularly. Wifi is usually solid in the holding area.

Nola Studios

250 W 54th St, 11th floor · Theater District

Theater-heavy: musicals, plays, regional. Smaller than Pearl/Ripley but well-run. Holding areas can spill into the hallway during big calls — be patient with the staff.

Chelsea Studios

151 W 26th St · Chelsea

Older, character-rich, smaller rooms. A favorite of indie productions and film audition rentals. Cash bar coffee shop on the ground floor that everyone uses.

Shetler Studios & Theatres

244 W 54th St, 12th floor · Theater District

Smaller venue, real character, doubles as performance space and audition rentals. Often used for new-play readings and Equity-Members-Only events.

EQUITY AUDITIONS — WHERE

Actors' Equity Association (AEA)

165 W 46th St, 14th floor · Theater District · actorsequity.org

AEA hosts EPAs (Equity Principal Auditions) and ECCs (Equity Chorus Calls) at their building. If you're EMC (Equity Membership Candidate) or full Equity, the schedule is on their site and the AEA app. Sign-ups happen the morning of, with member priority. Show up early, bring headshots/resumes stapled together, dress for the show.

EPA vs ECC: EPAs are for principal/named-role auditions, usually with sides or a monologue. ECCs are dance and singer chorus calls. Both are required by Equity contracts — even if the casting is mostly done. They're still worth the effort: you're building a relationship with the casting office, not just chasing this one role.

MAJOR CASTING OFFICES

These are the casting directors and offices behind a huge percentage of NYC theater, film, and TV. Their addresses are listed because submissions sometimes still go by mail. Verify current addresses before mailing — offices move.

Telsey + Company

Major theater and film/TV casting (Wicked, Hamilton, many others). Submissions through Actors Access for film/TV, by direct invitation for theater.

Bernard Telsey Casting

Same family, runs many of the largest theater calls. Watch for their EPAs.

Cindi Rush Casting

TV, film, and theater. Active across multiple categories.

Stephanie Klapper Casting

Theater, regional, and Off-Broadway specialist.

Tara Rubin Casting

Major Broadway musicals; one of the biggest theater offices in town.

Calleri Jensen Davis

Theater (Off-Broadway leaning) and indie film.

Henry Russell Bergstein Casting

Theater and television.

Pat McCorkle Casting

Long-running, theater & film, regional and Broadway.

Avy Kaufman Casting

High-end independent film. Submissions through agents/managers, but worth knowing the office's body of work.

Cassandra Kulukundis & office

Independent and prestige film.

OPEN CALLS — WHERE TO FIND THEM

- Playbill.com job board (free, updated daily) — theater open calls and EPAs
 - AEA website + AEA app — official Equity audition schedule
 - Backstage.com — non-union and student work
 - Actors Access — film/TV breakdowns posted directly by CDs
 - The Broadway Database (BroadwayWorld) — production announcements
 - Word of mouth in studios — actors talk; listen
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WHAT TO BRING

- Stapled headshot/resume (cut to 8x10 if your printer is bigger). Bring 4-6 copies — extras get used.
 - A black or neutral pen for sign-in sheets
 - Your binder or a clean folder with sides/sheet music
 - Hair ties / chapstick / mints / deodorant — yes, all of it
 - A book and headphones — you may wait two hours
 - Cash for vending or the building's coffee shop
 - A backup outfit if it's a major audition
 - Confidence, not delusion. There's a difference, and casting can tell.
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WHERE TO REHEARSE — CHEAP

If you need to rehearse a scene or warm up before an audition, NYC has options most people miss:

- Drilling Company / The Producers Club — cheap hourly rentals near Times Square
- Manhattan Plaza Health Club — if you're a member, the lobby and quiet areas
- Public libraries — the Performing Arts Library at Lincoln Center has practice rooms by reservation; the Mid-Manhattan branch has quiet study space
- Bryant Park Reading Room — quiet enough to run lines on warm days
- Empty rehearsal studios — Pearl, Ripley, and Shetler all rent rehearsal-only rooms by the hour at lower rates than audition spaces