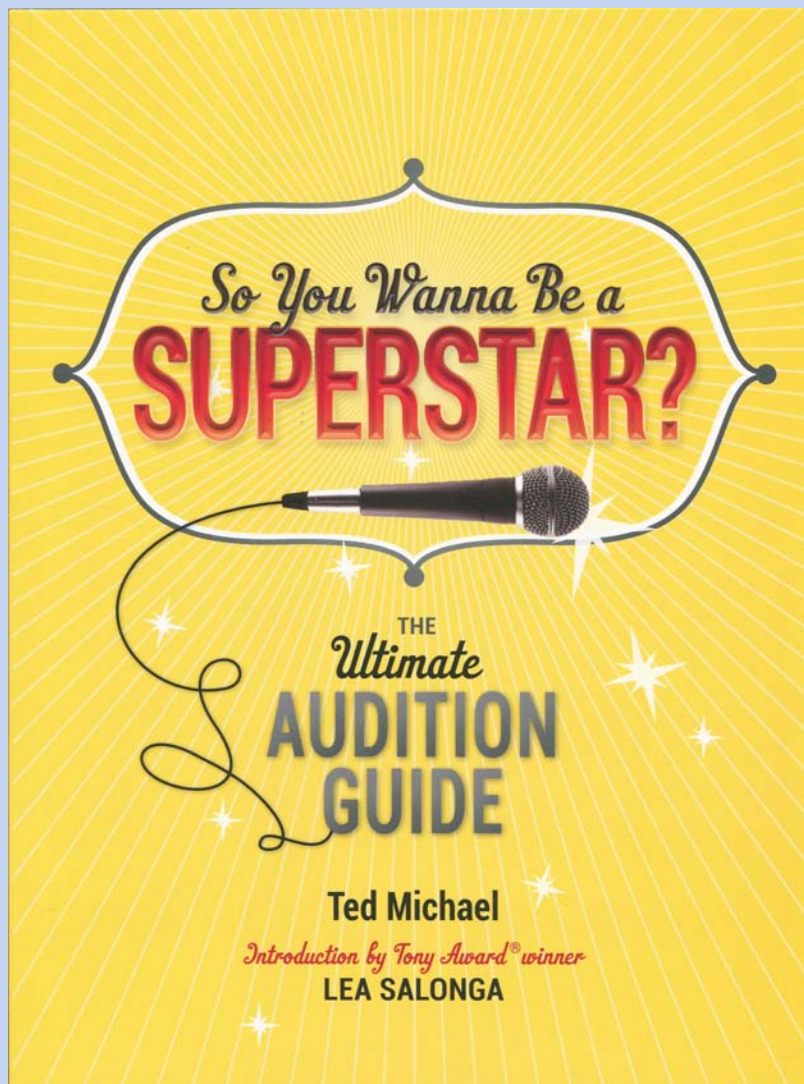


So You Wanna Be a Superstar?



An Event Kit to Create, Guide, and
Audition Superstars in Your Library

For School and Public Libraries to use in association with school auditions, *Teen Idol* programming, or other talent show programming.

About the Event Kit & Giveaway

Kids who love the arts often hang out in our libraries. Chances are when you attend the musical or the talent show, you know half the kids on stage and wonder why you have never met the other half. How can you serve the superstar aspirations of those kids? Could the library be more than a repository of the scripts and monologue books come audition time?

Whether your talented patrons are planning to try out for the musical, glee club, chorus, the local teen idol, or the talent show, they need audition skills. This Event Kit walks you through how to use local theater and music luminaries to hold a panel discussion about auditions and how those luminaries can improve your patrons' audition songs or monologues by giving advice to each. This event can be held prior to a specific casting call and be focused on that particular show or can be held anytime throughout the year to improve superstar skills.

If you provide Ted Michael, the author of *So You Wanna Be a Superstar? The Ultimate Audition Guide*, with a video or photo of your favorite audition to post on the book's website, he will ship you a signed copy of his book to give to that auditioning patron.

The Event Kit includes:

- Poster
- Marketing copy to announce the event
- Suggestions on how to invite local theater/music luminaries
- Panel questions
- Audition sign-up form
- Permission letter copy
- Audition schedule/rating sheet for the panelists
- Activity sheet for matching composer and lyricist to musical
- Superstar advice cards from Broadway stars to hand out to attendees

Already hold Teen Idol or other talent show programming? Integrate this new book and ideas into that programming!

This kit was created by Curious City in partnership with author Ted Michael. Download other free book engagement projects at www.CuriousCityDPW.com.

For me, the idea of being a superstar is about remembering that there are many definitions of the word. Take the gift that you have and share it with the world...there's regional theatre, local choir, community theatre, church, and Teaching (which gets a capital T), to name a few. **You just might discover that being a superstar to a neighbor or a kid is just as fulfilling as what you dream of at night.**

—**Julia Murney**, Acclaim Award for Elphaba in *Wicked* (National Tour/Broadway) and Drama Desk Nominee for Queenie in *The Wild Party*

About the Book

So You Wanna Be a Superstar? The Ultimate Audition Guide

By Ted Michael

Introduction by Tony Award Winner Lea Salonga

Published by Running Press Kids

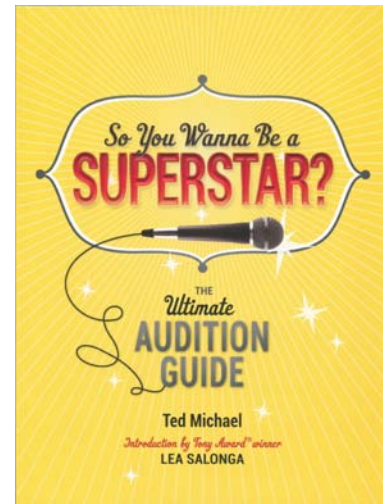
Ages 10 and up

Paperback ISBN: 9780762446100

2013 YALSA Popular Paperback nominee

2013 YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers nominee

Seventeen.Com Book Club Pick



Geared toward hopeful musical theater, show choir, a cappella, and glee club singers, as well as all shower singers who want to improve their skills, this enthusiastic and practical guide can help anyone's inner superstardom make a public appearance. Full of straightforward, well-organized advice for every step of the process, this book will help you train your vocal cords, pick the right audition material, and become comfortable with the spotlight. Interactive quizzes, helpful sidebars, and words of advice from industry professionals add a personalized and real-world touch.

"*So You Wanna Be a Superstar?* is no amateurishly written instructional manual ... Michael outlines a proactive approach to success, acknowledging that disappointment may be part of the process, but gives readers insight on every available tool they may equip themselves with to increase their chances of breaking into the biz"—*Booklist*

"If you're an aspiring Gleek (and let's face it, who isn't?), this book is your new best friend! Written for both performers and hopefuls, *So You Wanna Be a Superstar?* is filled with advice, quizzes, and tips that are sure to boost your skills!"—*Seventeen.com*

About the Authors

Ted Michael is a graduate of Columbia University and The Juilliard School. He has performed Off-Broadway and with opera companies and regional theaters across the country. Michael has published two novels (*The Diamonds* and *Crash Test Love*), and currently lives in New York City.

Lea Salonga, author of the introduction, is a singer and actress who is best known for her Tony Award-winning role in *Miss Saigon*. She has also appeared on Broadway in *Les Misérables* and *Flower Drum Song*. Many fans of all ages recognize Lea as the singing voice of Princess Jasmine in *Aladdin* and Fa Mulan in *Mulan* and *Mulan II*. In honor of her portrayal of the beloved princesses, The Walt Disney Company bestowed the honor of "Disney Legend" on Lea. Salonga was born in the Philippines, where she currently resides with her family. You can visit her online at leasalonga.com.

The book also includes contributions from actors and instructors Nic Cory and Mara Jill Herman, as well as many recognizable talents.

So You Wanna Be a Superstar?

Library Event Kit (Page 4)

So You Wanna Hold an Event?

Ask some of your artistic young patrons what they think of the idea. Do you have buy-in? Great! The steps below will lead you through planning and executing the event. These are only suggestions! You know your library, school, and programming best--we just want to help you inspire superstars.

So You Wanna...

...Reach Out & Choose a Date

Contact the drama teacher, choir director, or chair of the English Department at the Middle School and/or High School. Ask these good folks when their shows are for the coming semester and when auditions are. Their answers should help you choose a date for the event.

Explain to them that you hope to hold a *So You Wanna Be a Superstar?* event and help your patrons prepare for auditions.

Ask them if they want to be on the panel. They may not want to see students before the official audition or may not have time. No worries! There are plenty of people in your community related to theater to bring into your library as panelists. Regardless, we think the drama teacher, choir director, or chair of the English Department will be excited to experience more educated auditions this year with your help. They may even have some suggestions of who to ask about being panelists.

...Invite Panelists

Who would make good panelists? Look for 3-5. You will want a mix of people who work with both actors and singers (and maybe even dancers). If you do not have any leads from the drama teacher, choir director, or chair of the English Department, start with your local theater(s) website(s) and explore the staff list. A General Manager, Marketing Director, or Education Manager would be a good place to start.

For panelists who can speak to musical audition skills, look for a local choir director. You might also search to see if there is a voice coach in the area. A driven superstar student may need to take voice lessons and a voice coach may very well see this event as a means to meet potential new students.

What about getting a popular radio host involved? Who knows, he or she may like the idea enough to give you free on-air advertising.

So You Wanna Be a Superstar?

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So You Wanna...

...Invite Panelists (cont.)

Let your panelists know that you would ask them to:

- Answer some questions at the event (which you will send in advance)
- Expect some questions from the audience
- Listen to up to a dozen 4-minute auditions and give constructive criticism
- Select a "most promising audition" with the other panelists to receive a free book
- Provide you with a bio so you can introduce them

...Advertise the Event

Create a Poster/Flyer

We have included a poster in this Event Kit. The top half has general eye-catching copy. The bottom half has space for date, time, location, and ground rules.

The ground rules come from *Teen Idol* guidelines created by your fellow librarians. If you are working with the drama teacher, choir director, or chair of the English Department, they may help you align your audition ground rules with theirs. You might want to change the age requirements or allow for groups, for instance. No worries! Go right ahead and paste new rules over ours. Ours include:

- Audition critiques open to ages 13-18.
- All singers must provide their own music without lyrics on CD.
- All participants must be solo acts (no duets or multiple performers).
- Performance cannot be longer than 4 minutes.

List the Event on Websites, Newsletters, and Facebook

List the event wherever you can, including a Facebook event open to all users. Below is some suggested copy. If the whole school is preparing for a particular audition, you may want to include that show preparation in your advertising copy.

So You Wanna Be a Superstar? Then you need a great audition and stage presence! Prepare for your upcoming audition by performing your music or monologue in front of a panel of experts for professional feedback. Ask the panel about audition pieces and other superstar advice. Or simply come to watch the up and coming superstars of our community! The best audition will get a signed copy of the book *So You Wanna Be a Superstar? The Ultimate Audition Guide*.

Want to get audition feedback? Solo auditions (no duets or multiple performers) critiques are open to ages [age range]. Performances cannot be longer than 4 minutes. All singers must provide their own music without lyrics on CD. Sign-up by [date] by emailing [email].

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So You Wanna...

...Sign-Up Auditions & Get Permissions

Make sure you have your ground rules ready to go in email or flyer form before you take sign-ups so when the superstars start to line up, you are ready for them. How many should you have sign-up? A dozen auditions with panelist feedback will take 60-90 minutes. A suggested sign-up sheet is included in this Event Kit.

Do you need parental permission for this event? Only you and your principal or you and your director know the answer to that. If you want to videotape or photograph the participants, you will want to make sure you are following all school and library guidelines.

Remember, Ted Michael, the author of *So You Wanna Be a Superstar? The Ultimate Audition Guide*, will ship you a signed copy of his book to give to a participant who gave the most promising audition. He would love a video or photo of that favorite audition to post on the book's website and will take your lead on how to list it (with or without the patron's name or location).

A sample permission letter is included in this Event Kit. Please check your own policies to incorporate anything you need.

..Prepare Your A.V. & Your Volunteer (Week Before)

You know your room. Will you need the panelists mic'ed? Will you need your performers mic'ed? Will you have your performers bring a CD or an MP3? How will you play them? If you are going to videotape the performances, how will you do that?

You may need someone to run the A.V. for you at the event. At the very least, someone should switch out the CD's between auditions for you so you can stay focused on your audience, panelists, and auditions.

...Prepare Your Handouts & Schedule (Week Before)

Included in this Event Kit are two fun handouts for the event. One is "I Whistle a Happy Tune," a simple game to match a production with its composer and/or lyricist. This might be fun to have your audience do as they arrive to fill the time until you get started.

The second piece is Superstar Advice Cards. These are best printed on card stock or glossy stock. Hand them out to everyone at the event as they come in or better yet, sprinkle them through your event for those who solve the "I Whistle a Happy Tune" matching game correctly or those who ask questions.

You should make a schedule/notes sheet of auditions for yourself, your panelists, and your volunteer running the musical accompaniment. We have included a sample one in this Event Kit.

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So You Wanna...

...Remind Your Panelists and Auditions (Few Days Before)

You know they are all forgetful! Remind your panelists of the time they are expected and what is expected of them. If you are expecting your patrons to bring permission forms, it is especially good to remind them to bring the forms to the event.

...Welcome Your Panelists & Auditioners & Audience (Day Of)

___ Welcome your panelists with the schedule of auditions.

___ Welcome your audience with the "I Whistle a Happy Tune," a simple game to match a production with its composer and/or lyricist. This might be fun to have your audience do as they arrive to fill the time until you get started.

___ As for the audience members who are auditioning, make sure you know that they have arrived. Let them know what order they appear in the schedule. You might take their CDs, mark them with post-it notes as to their order, and give them to your A.V. volunteer.

...Welcome Your Panelists & Auditioners (Day Of)

You might begin the event with this suggested script:

Welcome everyone. We are here today because some of you want to be superstars. Whether of stage or screen or top 40, there is a lot of talent in this room to be developed. The library received this book, *So You Wanna Be a Superstar? The Ultimate Audition Guide* by Ted Michael with an intro by Tony Award Winner Lea Salonga. The book walks you through how to prepare a great audition and develop your stage presence. The book gave us the idea to hold an event where we could do the same. Tonight we hope to develop the superstar skills of ___ brave individuals with the help of our panel of experts.

Our panel of experts are luminaries from our local performing arts community.
[Introduce the panel.]

The panel will answer some questions about auditions and performance. I have some questions and I hope you do too.

After the panel answers some questions, our auditioners will step forward one-by-one to perform their four-minute auditions--either their monologues or songs. Our panel will give each auditioner their educated feedback. The most promising audition of the night (determined by our panel) will get a copy of *So You Wanna Be a Superstar? The Ultimate Audition Guide* signed by author.

So You Wanna Be a Superstar?

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So You Wanna...

...Ask Your Panelists? (Day Of)

Your audience may very well have questions of their own for the panelists, but here are some questions to get the pump primed.

Acting & Performance Questions

- The book *So You Wanna Be a Superstar? The Ultimate Audition Guide* opens with a definition of "talent". I was surprised that talent means "the potential for success". Does that definition make sense to you?
- What role does self-confidence play in getting a part? What is your advice to bolster it before an audition?
- What should you do to settle your nerves?
- What questions should one ask oneself to really understand a character?
- Should you read the play or musical before auditioning? Why?
- How do you warm up before an audition?
- Is it important to dress for an audition? Like a character in the performance or like yourself?
- What do you do if you make a mistake in your audition?
- What's the most memorable audition you witnessed, good or bad?
- What if you don't get a part or cannot bring yourself to audition, are there are other roles you can play?

Song & Dance Questions

- How does one determine what voice type they are? Why does it matter?
- What do you expect in an audition song and what advice do you have for choosing it?
- In a singer/songwriter Taylor Swift world, how important is it to know composers and lyricists of musical theater?
- How does one pick an audition song?
- What should you bring for an accompanist?
- Should you audition for a musical if you "can't sing"?
- If you are required to dance for a musical, show choir, or other audition, how should you prepare?

So You Wanna Be a Superstar?

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So You Wanna...

...Audition Your Patrons

___ Now it is time to get to the auditions! Transition by saying something like:

It is now time to hear audition samples from some of our superstars. I will ask our first performer, [name], to step forward.

___ While that person comes forward and his or her CD or MP3 is cued up, you might fill the space by asking the audience to answer a match on the "I Whistle a Happy Tune" activity sheet. Give a Superstar Advice Card to anyone who gets it right.

Here are the "I Whistle a Happy Tune" answers:

The Pirates of Penzance - Gilbert & Sullivan
Porgy & Bess - George & Ira Gershwin
Pal Joey - Rodgers & Hart
West Side Story - Leonard Bernstein
Into the Woods - Stephen Sondheim
The King & I - Rodgers & Hammerstein
The Scottsboro Boys - Kander & Ebb
Jesus Christ Superstar - Andrew Lloyd Webber
Wicked - Stephen Schwartz
Once on This Island - Ahrens & Flaherty
Rent - Jonathan Larson
The Last Five Years - Jason Robert Brown

___ Invite your auditioning patron to start.

___ When the performance is over, invite the panelists to praise the performance and to make recommendations for improving on the audition selection or execution.

___ When all of your performances are complete, ask your panelists to step aside to determine who gave the "most promising audition."

___ Announce the winner and invite him or her to stay after for a few minutes to take a video or a picture for the *So You Wanna Be a Superstar?* website. Record his or her address so you can send a copy *So You Wanna Be a Superstar?* to him or her.

___ Thank your auditioning patrons, your panelists, and the audience.

___ Hand out Superstar Advice Cards to anyone who did not get one.

Hurray! What a grand event!

So You Wanna...

...Wrap Up the Event

___ Take a video or a picture for the *So You Wanna Be a Superstar?* website (if you have the appropriate permission). Record the performer's mailing address so you can send a copy *So You Wanna Be a Superstar?* to him or her. You need not give the author, Ted Michael, the patron's address. He can send it to you and then you can send it on. Tell your winner that the book should come to him or her in about two weeks.

___ Give your panelists each an advice card as it contains information about the book. It may be a book that they will find useful in the future!

___ E-mail the video or picture to author Ted Michael at soyouwannabeasuperstar@gmail.com. Scan a copy of the winner's permission form so Ted Michael knows how to list the winner. He wants to honor the performer, but also protect his or her privacy. If the winner does not want to be on the website/blog, he or she can, of course, win the book anyway.

___ Wait for the copy of *So You Wanna Be a Superstar?* to arrive and congratulate yourself on being such a superstar supporter of your patrons and of the arts!

"Do at least one thing every day to improve your skills and/or opportunities. For instance, take a dance class, vocalize, see a show, work on a song/monologue.

Read! Get close to folks who share the same interests. And don't say you're right. SHOW you're right. After all, it's Acting."

—Daphne Rubin-Vega, two-time Tony Award nominee and original Mimi in *Rent*

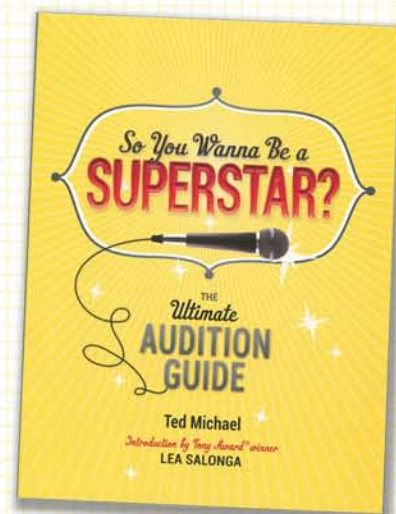
So You Wanna Be a **SUPERSTAR?**



THEN *You* NEED
a GREAT AUDITION *and* STAGE PRESENCE!

Perform your music or monologue audition in
front of a panel of experts to get professional feedback.
Ask the panel about audition pieces and
other superstar advice!
Come watch the up and coming superstars
of our community!

The best audition will win this book!



Date: _____ *Time:* _____ *Location:* _____

• Audition Critiques open to ages 13-19. • All singers must provide their own music without lyrics on CD. • All participants must be solo acts (no duets or multiple performers). • Performance cannot be longer than 4 minutes. • Sign-up by _____ by emailing _____

So You Wanna Be a Superstar?

PERMISSION LETTER

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your student, _____ has signed up to participate in our

So You Wanna Be a Superstar? event on _____ at _____.

He or she will be performing a song or monologue in front of a panel of local theater and music professionals to get feedback about their audition for a future production.

We would like to take photos and video at the event. What are your feelings about including your student in these photos or videos?

___ I give my permission to include my student in photos and video and to include his or her name. Please write how that name should appear. For example, Maddy Lewis or M. Lewis or Maddy L.

___ I give my permission to include my student in photos and video, but please do not include his or her name.

___ Please do not include my student in any photos or videos.

This event is based on the teen book, *So You Wanna Be a Superstar?* by Ted Michael. Ted Michael is a bit of a superstar himself. A New York literary agent, teen author, and performer in off-Broadway productions, he has created a website and blog for this book. He has offered to give us a free signed book to give to the student with the "most promising audition." He has also offered to post a video or photo of that audition on his blog to celebrate all of the up and coming superstars.

If your student is honored with the "most promising event audition" what are your feelings about including your student's or video on Ted Michael's *So You Wanna Be a Superstar?* blog at www.soyouwannabeasuperstar.com? Mr. Michael wants to honor student talent, but not compromise privacy.

___ I give my permission for Ted Michael to include my student on the *So You Wanna Be a Superstar?* blog with his or her name (but not their location) attached. Please write how that name should appear. For example, Maddy Lewis or M. Lewis or Maddy L.

___ I give my permission for Ted Michael to include my student on the *So You Wanna Be a Superstar?* blog, but please do not include his or her name or location.

___ Please do not include my student on the *So You Wanna Be a Superstar?* blog. (Your student will, of course, still win the book.)

Signature _____ Date _____

Thanks for letting your student participate in this event. If you have any questions, please contact me at:

So You Wanna Be a Superstar? SIGN-UP SHEET

Would you like to perform your monologue or song in front of a panel of theater and music professionals for their feedback?

The "most promising audition" will win a signed copy of the book, *So You Wanna Be a Superstar? The Ultimate Audition Guide* by Ted Michael with an introduction by Tony Award Winner Lea Salonga!

	NAME	EMAIL	PHONE	NOTES
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“For me, the idea of being a superstar is about remembering that there are many definitions of the word. Take the gift that you have and share it with the world...there's regional theatre, local choir, community theatre, church, and Teaching (which gets a capital T), to name a few. You just might discover that being a superstar to a neighbor or a kid is just as fulfilling as what you dream of at night.”

-**Julia Murney**, Acclaim Award for Elphaba in *Wicked* (National Tour/Broadway) and Drama Desk Nominee for Queenie in *The Wild Party*

For more superstar advice, read
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by Ted Michael
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Lea Salonga

Follow on Facebook or Twitter @SuperstarBook
www.SoYouWannaBeaSuperstar.com

“Preparation is paramount. Soak up your craft and show business in general—see and read plays and movies; study acting and audition techniques; take voice lessons; read *Backstage* and *Variety*. Take advantage of the wealth of information available to help make you a well-informed and well-rounded actor.”

-**Craig Burns**, CSA / Casting Director / Telsey + Company (*Wicked*, *Legally Blonde*, *Hairspray*)

For more superstar advice, read
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The Ultimate Audition Guide
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Lea Salonga

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“At the start of my career, I used to say: “I’d rather be lucky than good.” I was half right. I should have said: “I’d rather be lucky and good.” Everyone gets his or her shot, sometimes even more than once. It happens at the crossroad of opportunity (luck) and preparation (being good). The key is to stay in the game long enough for opportunity to strike, and to be the best in your field when it finally does.”

-**Paolo Montalban**, (ABC/Disney's *Cinderella*, Broadway's *The King and I*, *Pacific Overtures*)

For more superstar advice, read
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“For me, acting has always been about striving to create something that is truthful, interesting, and new. In every aspect of my acting, whether that’s at an audition, on stage in a show, or in front of a camera, I try to be honest in my intent, mine the material for clues about my character and make interesting choices for him, and find some new and unique way of delivering that information.”

-**Will Chase**, (NBC's *Smash*; Broadway's *Rent*, *Aida*, *The Full Monty*)

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"I Whistle a Happy Tune"

-The King & I

You may indeed whistle some of the happy (and unhappy) tunes from the musicals below. Can you match the production on the left with the composer and/or lyricist on the right?

The Pirates of Penzance	Andrew Lloyd Webber
Porgy & Bess	George & Ira Gershwin
Pal Joey	Jason Robert Brown
West Side Story	Rodgers & Hammerstein
Into the Woods	Ahrens & Flaherty
The King & I	Kander & Ebb
The Scottsboro Boys	Leonard Bernstein
Jesus Christ Superstar	Stephen Schwartz
Wicked	Jonathan Larson
Once on This Island	Gilbert & Sullivan
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The Last Five Years	Rodgers & Hart

For the answers check out the book
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So You Wanna Be a Superstar? AUDITION SCHEDULE AND NOTES

	NAME	AUDITION	NOTES
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