

# Alton Fitzgerald White

The Broadway star says rejection is the key to character building, in life and on stage.

There have been many times when I've auditioned for something I thought I was so right for, but it didn't work out. As actors, we deal with rejection all the time, and it was important for me to figure out what I learned about myself in the process of preparing for these auditions. Often the prep

for a part I didn't get led me to sharpen my skills for something else—something that was ultimately the perfect fit for me. And because I had worked so hard on the previous auditions, I already had all of those tools at my fingertips and was totally prepared.

## OUTTAKES

### FEAR FACTOR

It sounds odd coming from an actor, but I've dealt with shyness my entire life. With acting, you're in character. Now I'm becoming a public speaker, and trying to motivate people with my own experience, so I can't go up there and pretend I'm somebody else.

### RENAISSANCE MAN

Joe Morton, who plays Rowan Pope on the show *Scandal*, was my first musical theater hero. His incredible film and television career inspires me to go beyond theater, too.

### CIRCLE OF LIFE

"They Live in You" will always be my favorite song that we performed in *The Lion King*. It represents everyone we've loved and lost, and the lessons they taught us.

Alton's new book, *My Pride: Mastering Life's Daily Performance*, recounts his record-breaking run as Mufasa in Broadway's *The Lion King*.

