

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

JUNE 2017

Acting Classes

Actor/Director, all around great Acting Coach, Richard Kline of Three's Company fame is teaching weekly at the Producers Club NYC. For \$45 a week, you get the best training possible, plus on camera scenes & feedback to help you move to the next level. 1st Class is FREE! Contact: Jenilyn at jenilynnoelle@gmail.com

Awesome Studios

With five fully equipped theaters that convert into HD screening rooms, a Bar and Lounge, and two beautiful Studios, The Producers' Club is a conveniently located hub for artists of all disciplines to showcase their craft. Email info@producersclub.com

Open Calls NYC

Want to Star in a Web Series? Check out "How to do Everything". 'How To Do Everything' is an upcoming serialized web comedy which follows a group of young actors in NYC as they navigate their way through survival jobs, zany acting teachers, and awkward romance. For more info on casting and auditions go to...

www.howtodoeverythingwebseries.com
or
howtodoeverythingcasting@gmail.com

In between gigs? Check out "A Sketch of New York". They hold weekly auditions at the Producers Club and once you've auditioned and done a great job, viola, you're in! It's loads of fun. So if you like sketch comedy, this is for you! Contact Joe DiNozzi at asketchofnewyork@gmail.com

10 simple ways to increase your chances of receiving a callback



Did you know that agents know in the first 20 seconds or less of meeting an actor whether they are going to represent that actor? And did you also know that Casting Directors have a sixth sense as to who's going to get a callback by how an actor walks into the room? Don't be one of the 75% of actors who don't get a second chance because of a silly mistake.

Here are a number of short tips to help you win over those with a critical eye within the first twenty seconds of meeting them:

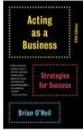
1. Look Professional.

You might think its okay to come in wearing torn jeans and a t-shirt, but there is no way you are going to get another chance if you walk in looking sloppy. If you come into an audition, choose clothing that looks professional, button-downshirt or blouse, nice slacks or un-torn jeans if you like a successful acting career. Furthermore, having clear, smooth skin, with or without makeup is always important as well as having your hair combed/brushed. The point is come looking as if you are getting your headshot. Oh and last point smile and make sure your teeth are brushed.

2. Never Ever Come to an Audition Chewing Gum.

Please discard the gum before entering the room or for that matter before entering the building. It looks unprofessional and rude. If you want, you could have a breath mint before entering the room. You should never have to give an agent or casting director any excuse. Once again, smile upon entering the room, and come in with clean teeth and clean breath. Trust me, this alone goes a long way...with any situation.

Cover to Cover: Great Acting Books



Acting as a Business: Strategies for Success (Paperback)

By Brian O'Neil

\$16.95

ISBN: 9780345807076

Availability: On Our Shelves Now

Published: Vintage Books - April 8th, 2014



The Actor's Workbook: A Practical Guide to Training, Rehearsing and Devising + Video (Paperback)

By Alex Clifton

\$29.95

ISBN: 9781472530042

Availability: On Our Shelves Now

Published: Methuen Publishing - May 5th, 2016



The Upright Citizens Brigade Comedy Improvisation Manual (Paperback)

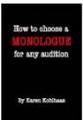
By Matt Besser, Ian Roberts, Matt Walsh

\$25.00

ISBN: 9780989387804

Availability: On Our Shelves Now

Published: The Upright Citizens Brigade - August 15th, 2013



How to Choose a Monologue for Any Audition (Paperback)

By Karen Kohbaas

\$15.00

ISBN: 9780978638436

Availability: Special Order

Published: Big and Slow, Inc. - April 1st, 2009



Actions: The Actors' Thesaurus (Paperback)

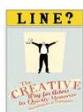
By Marina Calderone, Maggie Lloyd-Williams, Terry Johnson (Foreword by)

\$19.95

ISBN: 9780896762527

Availability: On Our Shelves Now

Published: Drama Publishers/Quite Specific Media - March 17th, 2006



Line? The Creative Way for Actors to Quickly Memorize Monologues and Dialogues (Kobo eBook)

By Jared Kalsner

\$8.99

ISBN: 9780982655856

Availability: Available Now

Published: Smashwords Edition - October 17th, 2012

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10 simple ways to increase your chances of receiving a callback...(Con't)

3. Making Eye Contact when entering the room.

It's important for an actor to remember to make eye contact with everyone in the audition room. I can't stress this point enough. If you don't make eye contact, it looks unprofessional and seems very disrespectful. I make it a point when meeting new people of even friends I go out with to always make eye contact.

4. Stand Tall, it shows you are confident in yourself and to others.

Never slump in your seat while doing at an audition with a casting director. One, it looks like you don't care and that you are not interested in what they are saying to you. Two, it shows you have no confidence in yourself or the character you are reading for. Three, it comes across as disrespectful, not very attentive to the other person...remember when sitting up straight, it shows that you are reactive and in the moment!

5. Handshaking...who shakes first.

Someone once taught me to never shake first and to allow the other party to make the gesture, kind of misleading, especially if the other party is thinking the same thing. Or perhaps, they don't want to shake your hand at all which is not uncommon these days especially with all the germs in the environment. My suggestion is only shake if you feel that the gesture is necessary, otherwise you can make the other party uncomfortable and at the end of the day, comes across as a little pushy.

6. Resumes, Headshots and Sides, Oh My.

So, you want to make a lasting impression on a casting director? The 3 most important tools an actor needs upon entering an audition room are your resume, your headshot and your sides just in case you can't recall a line. Remember to organize these items and perhaps keep them neat in a portfolio with a clear sleeve and date it. So, next time you go in for an audition, all you have to do is take it out of your portfolio, hand in your branding materials hold onto your sides and viola...Professional Actor!!!

7. About that Portfolio.

In my previous tip, I suggested carrying your audition materials in a portfolio. A simple Investment that goes a long way. Not only does it look professional, but keeps your papers nice and neat, and at the ready. This makes a very good impression to not only a casting director but agents, managers, even your peers. Heck, maybe you could start a trend, just with a little investment into your career/brand!

8. Time is of the essence.

A famous Artists once coined that everyone gets their 15 minutes of fame, well, in the the audition room it's more like 15 seconds, 20 tops. This time is very precious and therefore you cannot waste it. You must remain focused, confident in your speech and avoiding skipping over lines, or replacing words if you can help it. Stick to the script as much as possible and practice your lines over and over in the mirror. So when you walk in to that audition, you will show them that you are confident.

9. Personality and charisma.

2 very powerful traits a person should have, especially when pursuing acting. People react better when a person has a strong confident presence. It reassures them that this person is the right person for the job. This is especially true when entering the audition room. An actor must come across as confident as discussed earlier, but they must also have a personality, something that sparks, filled with charisma. A casting director wants to see who you really are, not just another actor, but a real person, with real emotions, and thoughts.

10. Being polite upon exiting your audition.

A thank you goes a long way. 2 simple words, that shows gratitude and care for the other person!

An Award for Excellence

The American Theatre Wing's Tony Awards® got their start in 1947 when the Wing established an awards program to celebrate excellence in the theatre.

Named for Antoinette Perry, an actress, director, producer, and the dynamic wartime leader of the American Theatre Wing who had recently passed away, the Tony Awards made their official debut at a dinner in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria hotel on Easter Sunday, April 6, 1947.

Vera Allen, Perry's successor as chairwoman of the Wing, presided over an evening that included dining, dancing, and a program of entertainment. The dress code was black tie optional, and the performers who took to the stage included Mickey Rooney, Herb Shriner, Ethel Waters, and David Wayne. Eleven Tonys were presented in seven categories, and there were eight special awards, including one for Vincent Sardi, proprietor of the eponymous eatery on West 44th Street. Big winners that night included José Ferrer, Arthur Miller, Helen Hayes, Ingrid Bergman, Patricia Neal, Elia Kazan and Agnes de Mille.

The Medallion



During the first two years of the Tonys (1947 and 1948), there was no official Tony Award. The winners were presented with a scroll and, in addition, such mementos as a gold money clip (for the men) and a compact (for the women).

In 1949 the designers' union, United Scenic Artists, sponsored a contest for a suitable model for the award. The winning entry, a disk-shaped medallion designed by Herman Rosse, depicted the masks of comedy and tragedy on one side and the profile of Antoinette Perry on the other. The medallion was initiated that year at the third annual dinner. It continues to be the official Tony Award.

Since 1967 the medallion has been mounted on a black pedestal with a curved armature. After the ceremony, each award is numbered for tracking purposes and engraved with the winner's name.

TONY AWARDS: Sunday, June 11, 8PM

Some suggested Clothing options when getting Headshots

Choosing the right clothing for your headshots can be a daunting task especially if you don't know your type. Having seen clients either coming with ball gowns to wearing leotards and everything in between, I have started to make recommendations for clothing options. Below are some suggestions that you may want to consider before taking your next headshots:

1. What is your Type? Now I don't mean your dating preference. What I mean is what is your character type. This is probably one of the toughest questions for an actor to answer, 9 times out of 10, they don't really know. So to ease this a bit, I usually ask an actor what they see themselves as portraying and how it relates to their true personality. Based off their response, I suggest the best clothing options that reflects their persona and how they see themselves. Keep in mind there are other demographic factors involved that can be added to the mix. Then, I continue asking other questions, such as if they are white collar type/ blue collar type, the girl/boy next door type, the mom/dad type, etc. In some rare cases, I ask them who their favorite TV characters are and if they see themselves as that character type wearing that particular wardrobe.

2. Costumes are for Comic Con. Okay maybe that statement is a bit too much, but it's an honest one. Look why would any actor want to limit themselves by wearing a costume, such as a police uniform in a headshot. It screams background actor, not that there is anything wrong with being a background actor. Perhaps you can wear a blue or gray suit. In this instance, that headshot of you wearing a suit can be used for a multitude of character types: a doctor, a lawyer, and even a plain clothes detective. See, now that shows versatility and casting directors like that.

3. It's not about the latest fashion trend. You always want to look your best in a headshot, but what you don't want is having your trendy outfit stand out more than you do. Remember, you are selling your brand and no one else's. Choose clothing that best fits you. Always keep it simple for the most part. I always suggest a button down shirt or collared sport shirt, that's solid colored, works best for a guy and for a lady, same thing, a nice solid colored top with short or long sleeves, and perhaps a plain necklace that's not too distracting.

4. Look at me...look at me. Again, don't allow your clothing choices to take away the true focus...you! Casting directors and agents want to see you and you alone, not your fashion choices. Otherwise, this might hurt your chances of getting that audition or being represented. You can still be unique, but let your personality shine through with a great smile, or a sincere thought provoking expression through the eyes. The outfits will take care of themselves.

5. Variation is the key to success. When choosing what to bring to your headshot session, I always ask a client to bring several clothing options that represents their character and the characters they see themselves portraying. Again, not over doing it, but keeping it simple and keeping it true to their own personality.

6. Keep your receipts. If you don't have it, buy it. In the past, I have met many clients who have bought new clothes for their headshot and return them the next day. Not that this is an unheard practice, I always suggest to client to hold on to it for at least a week or so, just in case they get an audition right after they have taken their headshots. In this instance, not only will you look like your headshot, but you will feel more confident in your appearance when meeting an agent or casting director. Even better, you still have the option of returning that new outfit because you kept your receipt, so it's a win, win situation! Remember when the going gets tough, the tough go shopping!!!

7. Bottom line. The above statements are based upon opinion only and are to be used at your discretion. Always remember to read other articles on these matters and come to your own conclusions. Just because one person may say this is the right way, doesn't mean it is always right. And if they argue with you or try to justify it with fancy lingo, then they are not worth your time or money!!

BACKSTAGE PHOTOGRAPHY NYC

www.backstagephotographynyc.com

info@backstagephotographynyc.com

Services:

Headshots:

Headshot Sessions are conducted both in the studio or on location, using both a combination of studio and natural lighting to create images that will stand out in New York and Los Angeles. Each session is tailored to the needs of the individual and type of portraits or headshots. Call for Pricing at 646-883-1974.

Processing takes about 24 hrs after the shoot.

www.backstagephotographynyc.com/actorheadshots-portfolio.html

Retouching:

Our standard retouching process includes removing blemishes, some fly away hairs, and whitening the teeth if necessary. Upon request, we will do a more advanced retouch, as seen in the "After" picture's above. Call for Pricing at 646-883-1974.

Retouching takes about 3-5 business days.

www.backstagephotographynyc.com/retouchingservices.html

Comp Cards:

A comp card is a marketing tool for actors and especially models. They serve as the latest and best of a model's portfolio and are used as a business card. Call for Pricing at 646-883-1974.

Designing and Printing takes about 2 business days.

www.backstagephotographynyc.com/actorcompcards.html

Newsletter:

Each and every month receive great tips, insider information on branding your yourself and news around the acting world. Also get the latest info on acting books, classes and auditions happening in NYC.

www.backstagephotographynyc.com/newsletter.html

Remaining calm before and during your Headshot Session

We all get nervous. Whether when going on an audition, meeting an agent for the first time, and of course getting your headshots taken...Well, just relax, I promise it will be awesome. I understand that your image is important to you and you want to look your best, but don't overthink it, stay calm! I will talk to you, take the time you need to relax and then start shooting when you are ready. To discuss this further, below are some suggestions to help ease your nerves.

Lets Meet

I enjoy meeting new people all the time and just getting to know them, their personality, their thoughts. It's a way for breaking the ice and allowing the client to get to know me beforehand. It's all about chemistry and how we relate to each other that makes a connection and builds trust. Once the shoot date does arrive, the client will be more relaxed because we have already built a trust.

Dance to the music

Got an awesome play list, well bring it along, if not, let me know what music you like and I'll create an awesome playlist for you...really!! Music definitely makes us feel better on so many levels. It can create a liveliness in us and brings us to a place of pure calmness. So whatever beat you like, make it one that makes you dance and I'll dance with you!!

Bring a friend along

Recently, I have encouraged clients to bring a friend or relative with them. I think this helps them feel more relaxed and can definitely make it more fun to have someone else there. In one instance, a client brought her best friend with her and she could not stop smiling. As a result we got awesome shots that were real and genuine. The whole process was smooth and we even had time to take some candid shots.

Collaborate

When it come to headshots, I believe it is a team effort. Both the photographer and client must work together in order to achieve their goal, which is a great session with great headshots. Always discuss the shoot beforehand, in terms of location, clothing options, and what to do in certain weather conditions. Take each others thoughts/opinions into consideration and work out the details until you reached an agreement and respect for one another.

Forget about it

Great line from a great movie. But nevertheless, it's a true everyday life statement. Move on, I promise it will be better tomorrow, or whenever. I understand that nerves can get the best of us sometimes and we have no control over them. In situations like this, I say don't worry about it. You can always try another day, do something another way, until it does work. Then, the nerves will subside because you know what the process is like and next time, you will be ready!

Final Thoughts...

If you have any thoughts that you want to add or disagree with, send your opinions to info@backstagephotographynyc.com and if you want to write a blog and submit it to us, we will post them on our website.