

Takeaways from Actors' Think Tank July 14, 2021

Kim Graham - Casting Director

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Lisa Minakowski

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Thank you Kim for reminding me how important the slate is - "find the joy and release your ego." I will focus on having more fun with it and let my personality/energy shine through:)

Shelby Hightower

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Be like the ocean - go towards your goals, but be flexible. BUT KEEP GOING.

Sandra Yodesky

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Well this was extraordinarily difficult since Kim offered so many valuable insights. Since I have to select just one though it would have to be that "its never too late". Kim also said "you have to be like the ocean but be flexible.". Both statements resonated with me since I so strongly believe that its never too late to pursue a dream and be consistent yet flexible in your pursuit.

Dina Laura

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So... my takeaway for Kim is that you have to remember that it's about PLAY, not WORK. I studied piano for 7 years and she is 100% right. I didn't WORK the piano, I PLAYED the piano. So grateful for that amazing nugget of wisdom. I will never forget it.

Kelly McCaughan

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We are in the business of playing, not saving lives. It should feel like play and you should be having fun. If you're not, maybe rethink it.

Lindsay Reed

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Go in with the intention of booking the casting office not the job. If the same casting office keeps bringing you back it means they see something in you and it's a good sign.

Mike Provenzano

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I loved Kim's story about "the only thing you can control is what you do in the room". It's so true when she said we should enjoy what we do as we get to "play" in our work. I honestly

love what I do and have fun every day that I get to do this. Thanks for reminding all of us to find the joy in what we do. I also have to comment about “booking the office” as they are the ones that will bring you back in the future if they saw something in you. Love this great advice!!

Rich Henkels

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When it comes to career choices, sometimes, you have to go with your gut and figure it out along the way. There is a reason things fall the way they do, you meet the people you meet and you get the suggestions you get from people you like, trust and learn from. “There’s a reason this is happening. Do it!”

Shelley Brietling

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The word for today is...”Play”

That is what we do and how fortunate we are to be able to do this!

We need to find the joy in what we do and then go have fun with it.

When thinking about attending a Casting workshop, target the casting directors who cast shows that you see yourself performing in. These are great for working your acting muscles.

I’ve heard this in other ways but still so important to remember:

When auditioning, do your work, trust your work, listen and respond. The only control you have in an audition is what you bring to it.

Then after you’re done...let it go.

Paul Blumenthal

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Since the slate may be the only time casting may ever get to know you you should be warm and friendly to infuse your personality with them so they can know how they feel about you.

Luca Cundo

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It was reassuring to hear from Kim about doing things for the love of it and not the money and the fame. I’ve been rolling like that through my whole life. It was reassuring especially recently seeing people at different levels than myself. Live life with passion and nothing else matters.

Lydia Gilbert

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The importance of being and showing who we are intrinsically and honestly from the moment go, making the suggestion of the character not forcing it.

Stacey Marie Keba

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Set a budget for yourself for acting classes and casting director workshops. Don't try to meet everyone, pick and choose the casting offices that fit your needs.

Lynia Love

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Make a choice and commit to it, being unsure brings a disservice to the character.

Gabi Faye

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If you wake up everyday and feel in your heart this is what you are meant to do - keep going. Find a way, and trust your instincts.

Ana Hoffman

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'The slate is a window into you as a person—show your personality by being your authentic self'

Chris Evans

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Play, be yourself and play. You don't work a piano you play one! She even said it twice it was so important. Kim was simply awesome!

Tyler McKenzie

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Kim was phenomenal! As a singer with classical training, I found her story about how she became a casting director to be incredibly interesting! I also appreciated how she explained to us what marks the difference between a "green" actor and a more seasoned actor in the audition room. It is very intuitive to know that how we pronounce certain words and carry ourselves can affect the casting process.

Harriet Dobin

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Book the casting office! They will remember you and call you back in the next time. Your slate is a window into your personality. Say Hi. Add a little Wheee!