

These go out this morning to Brette!
Thanks all.

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Takeaways from Actors' Think Tank August 4, 2021

Brette Goldstein - Casting Director

Sandra Yodesky

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Outstanding guest today with so many valuable insights. My biggest takeaway was regarding the fear behind the casting table. This is everything! I'm always so focused on my own fear that this never occurred to me. It just reinforces that since I am doing what I love I need to focus on that and keep in mind that no one does me better than me! Very empowering!

Stacey Marie Keba

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Everyone in the room is feeling full of terror (like if they'll ever work again!), so if you can come in and engross the room into sitting back and watching a show, that's the best thing you can do to put them at ease...kinda like human Valium.

Shelby Hightower

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"Be chill, energy-wise. Be human valium"

Mariel McIntosh

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Know how much power you have when you walk into a casting room.

Lindsay Reed

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Have empathy towards casting directors. It is helpful to hear how to build/maintain a relationship with a busy casting director through emails. Everyone wins when we put in an effort to make a casting director's life easier while in the process of engaging with them.

Colleen Wyse

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Branding formula: "Wheelhouse meets Wish List." Easy to remember!

Shelley Brietling

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Hearing that the concept of actors being mistreated by the industry and agents was a rude awakening for me. Brette encourages all actors to keep a balance. An actor can be treated fairly without being high maintenance or a “dick”. Make sure you make a list of what you need as an actor on the “deal memo”.

Dressing area

Meals

Ground or air transportation

Lodging

Billing

And of course getting footage.

As an actor do not feel intimidated by production. Make sure you take care of yourself.

Rosalyn Jamal

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It's almost impossible not to say that Brette was phenomenal, however, my takeaway was how Brette fights for the actor whom she described as being intimidated into having no voice. The explanation of the deal memo was enlightening, as was hearing Brette explain the mindset at the Casting Director table and the power the actor has to set/change the atmosphere in the room.

Mike Provenzano

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I loved how truly open and honest Brette was with our group today, from giving people real feedback about our slates and ensuring we show who we are to reminding all of us to do our homework before going into an audition, and being prepared. Thanks for looking out for actors in your casting process Brette. We are all lucky to have someone like you in our corner!!

Rich Henkels

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“I will be so loyal...” if you just do things the way I ask you and put your best performance out there. In 85% of ALL self tapes, directions are not being followed. You gave us an answer to the question, “...besides consideration for a part, what does following directions get us?”

Paul Blumenthal

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The hero needs a dragon to slay.

Know how much power the actors have at auditions. Be there, focus on the reader or a camera if commercial and knowing that then it's really just getting the audience sucking you into the moment.

Tyler McKenzie

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Brette was hilarious, informational and most importantly, real. One thing that struck a chord with me was her message about how crucial collaboration is in this day and age. And how important it is that we produce our own content to get noticed in this industry.

Craig Woolridge

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But my take away was, when describing your brand, add at least two adjectives combined with an example actor, and make sure you have their name correct.

Luca Cundo

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Amazing to hear Brette speak. She has a great sense of humor. Really appreciate her talking about the toxicity in the industry and how it all comes down to the fear of the people in the industry losing their jobs. It's all defense mechanisms. Also appreciated learning some Yiddish.

Ana Hoffman

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My biggest takeaway: I really appreciated Brette's courage in being so forthright and honest about EVERYTHING, especially when she explained that we are ALL human--there is fear on both sides of the equation during auditions, however, We the Actors have the power to hold the room in a safe space and shift any fear-based energy by being present, staying grounded and connected to ourselves and the reader. I needed to hear that! Thank you!

Chris Evans

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Brette was wonderful! Absolutely loved her. I have a couple takeaways. First, I learned about about a demo deal. Never even heard of them. Additionally, turning away auditions is ok. Not to feel guilty. Brette, thank you, you were amazing!

Lydia Barr

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My take away is that it was really nice to get a more in depth on how to do self tapes, how to navigate the industry a little bit and how to break into acting

Gabi Faye

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They don't come anymore real then Brette - that's a lesson in itself. Be genuine, and know your audience. Everyone loves to feel seen.

Kelly McCaughan

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Know how much power you have...Hold their energy and change the room...Take care of them by being grounded; People behind the table want to be seen, loved, and respected.

Justine Reiss

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Use the idea of WHO you are and your DREAM of who you are (as long as that makes sense for someone you could actually play) in the slate, Creative slates that state not only the actor but the role they played, and taking a deeper dive into adjectives and descriptive words even using NON ACTORS / or people of note.

PRONOUNCE any names CORRECTLY.

And know that EVERYONE has FEAR, approach with EMPATHY and VULNERABILITY, and CONNECT with ONE person, personalize it!

Erin Villone

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My biggest take away is to be yourself and know yourself...or in Brette's more specific terminology "know your wheelhouse and your wishlist..." and how important it is to know these things through every step of the process!!! From when you choose a part to audition for, to being in the audition room, to booking the role and knowing your needs once you are on set. I feel like working from a place of being true to your 'wheelhouse and your wishlist' means we, as actors, are working more from a place of empowerment and less from a place of desperation to get and / or take any job.

Sandra Bulk

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I can't just pick one from Brette. The two things that stood out to me were "wheelhouse-meets-wishlist" (thank you for boiling that down!) and "Deal Memo." DEAL MEMO! Who knew??

Dina Laura

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Where do I begin??? There are so many takeaways, but I think my favorite was learning that the people BEHIND the table are just as scared as the people standing in FRONT of it, i.e. yours truly! It demystified the whole auditioning process for me, and leveled the playing

field in a way that no one has ever been able to do for me before, and I am truly grateful to Brette for that. Come back soon!!!