

Takeaways from Actors' Think Tank, June 7, 2022

Brooke Thomas - Casting Director

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Dina Laura

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Brooke singlehandedly demystified the audition process for me, by clarifying the partnership between the casting director and the actor, and how casting is on OUR side. We're on the same team. Hooray! Gaining that insight is a game changer, that will forever impact how I approach auditions going forward. Thank you so much, Brooke!

Rich Henkels

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The last thing you do before you walk into an audition, is strike your "super-hero" pose. It does wonders, just try it. Never thought of this. So simple. And it doesn't surprise me in the least that this physical reminder works so well to get one into the right mindset.

Marcie Ryan

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To hear from Brooke that the Casting director is on the actor's team and they want the actor to succeed was empowering to be given that insight will definitely ease the nerves in the audition room. And this information was very reassuring: positive feedback from a casting director is getting invited to audition again.

Paul Blumenthal

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In an audition, be well versed in improv, but be ready to give a clean version if asked for it by casting. In a callback, know it is now my time, the studio is now mine, and show casting that it is my audition room, and they are only a guest!

Lindsay Michelle Reed

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I forget sometimes that the Casting director isn't the one actually doing the final casting for the job. It was a great reminder. I was shocked that only 5% of directors ask for Brook's opinion when casting!

Shauna Hurley-Hansen

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I am very fond of Brooke and very happy that Actor's Think Tank got to spend some time with her today. My favorite takeaway came from Brooke's response when Rich asked her

how she continued to learn and grow. She replied that she learned from Actors. Brooke said, "I'm an Actor person." I love this! She elaborated by saying that she is our peer and that we are all equal and that a callback time is ours and ours alone. A wonderful afternoon.

Shelby Hightower

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We are peers. We are all equals. We all want the same thing, a successful audition. (Please let this sink in, Shelby) Thank you, Brooke!!

Jackie Diehl

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Takeaway: What to put in an email to likely get a response was a very interesting takeaway for me because I've been on the other side of casting before and seen a lot of the emails that come in to the casting director and how easy it is for them to get buried or under prioritized and I've always wondered if it was even worth reaching out at all or is it just a bother? A lot of what Brooke said was honestly so refreshing to hear, not only about how SHE learns from the actors but also how we're all on the same level and helping each other. However, it really stood out to me when she said to make the subject of the email how/where we met and then include a call to action in the body and a picture to jog the memory.

Kelly McCaughan

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I loved when Brooke reiterated that we're all professionals/humans and all after the same goal. It can be easy to forget that we're all on the same playing field!

Gabi Faye

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"Your audition is YOUR time. Own it. Everyone wants you to be there." Love the empowerment Brooke exhibits and rallies for.

Jeannette Nina Plenzick

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Lots of good stuff in one hour, hard to choose just one takeaway! I appreciate the reminder that the CD and actor are a team, while director and producer are another. Hold that superhero pose for 20 secs before the callback that is YOUR time and remember acting is art and art is subjective!

Mike Provenzano

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Unfortunately I had to leave to go to a booking, so I look forward to watching the rest of our session. Thank you and I really appreciated your feedback about improv and how important it really is in the commercial space while being able to do this along with the copy provided. I love the fact that I have learned to embrace and enjoy improv!!

Rosalyn Jamal

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Brooke was awesome. Everything she landed with me, but I especially liked her saying the talent owns the audition room, she owns her studio, we are partners and for the actor to do the super hero pose 20 seconds before going into the audition to boost confidence.

Justine Reiss

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Improvisation is a tool you need in your bag, you need to be able to listen and improv helps you, actors use their improvisation skills in callbacks and auditions. Great skill to be able to pop back n forth between improv and the copy.

When emailing FUPS here's some tips:

Subject- where we met, a small jpg photo, a call to action (what you are doing / did/ new headshots or "here's a clip of my audiobook or podcast")

Craig Woolridge (Jersey City Guy)

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"It's your audition, your time. You're a professional; you're there because you're supposed to be there."