

Takeaways from Actors' Think Tank, April 6, 2022

Aaron Schoonover - Casting Director

E-mail: aaroncaststhings@gmail.com

Tyler McKenzie

Tyler@thetylermckenzie.com

What a great hour with Aaron! His insight into the casting process was invaluable! One thing I found very interesting is that after he spoke about what his casting office prefers actors do in submitting, he stated "that could be different for every other casting office". That shows, that as actors we need to make sure we follow directions!

Dina Laura

dina.laura@gmail.com

Embrace your multi-hyphenate and trust that it's okay if one week you're writing and the next week you're crocheting. You will keep circling back to all the things you love to do. Thanks, Aaron!

Greg Wagner

greg.wagner66@gmail.com

I really liked the information and insight in regard to slates.

Rich Henkels

rkhenkels@gmail.com

When auditioning for a Co-Star role, if given time, take it and use it wisely to make sure what you ultimately submit is something about which you can be proud. Having the sides in your hand is fine, but the priority is to be prepared and demonstrate that through your performance.

Shelby Hightower

shelby.k.hightower@gmail.com

What stuck out to me and what really warmed my heart was when he said he just wants to make a safe place for people to play. I think it's easy to forget that we are just playing.

Rosalyn Jamal

arjamal@verizon.net

Aaron said to keep the slate simple; a full-body photo can be used with the audition; and Aaron remains open minded, letting the actors do their magic and he determine who is best.

Sandra Bulk

snbulk1@gmail.com

I was pleasantly surprised to learn that adding a self-tape to a reel is perfectly fine if the role is in your wheelhouse, but you don't have a sample of finished work for that role type. The link to the TV Writing website is fantastic for finding scripts of produced work!

Catalina Conrad

Catalinaconrad007@gmail.com

It's ok to be hyper fixated on certain hobbies and lose interest in others.

Shelley Brietling

sbrietling@gmail.com

What I loved most about Aaron's outlook on auditioning is that he wants the actor to feel they have a safe place to have fun and play. This is where the magic happens. Having a warm and inviting environment, allows the actor to make adjustments and change direction, if need be, in a warm and safe space. How comforting to know that we as actors are given such respect and understanding.

Thank you Aaron!

Jeannette Nina Plenzick

jplenzick@gmail.com

Use your instincts and make choices that are different than what you know most other actors are going to do. I also loved learning that social media doesn't have to be 'all business' and we can truly show up there as who we are.

Mike Provenzano

mike@mlprov.com

Lots of great tips, thank you very much. Glad you like the split slate, I do that but do video for full length as well. I love your comment about following your instincts while making an interesting choice along with knowing who you are in the industry. Really resonated with me. Thanks again!!

Victoria Stevens

vickiestevens1@verizon.net

Takeaway: I was so excited to learn from Aaron. He was so knowledgeable. I am so glad to hear that his agency looks at the self-tapes after the deadline. That makes me feel so hopeful that my self-tapes are not being missed. Many times, I try to get them in as early as possible but there are times when it is just not doable. At least I know that when I send in my self-tapes at the deadline, Aaron and Bess will still be watching them.

Mariel McIntosh

marielmcintosh1@gmail.com

“Casting Directors can sensor essence when you walk into the room.”...”Know who you are and ask yourself who am I in the industry?” Embrace who you are and be confident.

Lindsay Michelle Reed

Lindsay.m.reed1@gmail.com

I started checking out the link Aaron sent to the TV scripts. These are super helpful! I can't wait to dig in and find some new scenes to work on!

Stacey Marie Keba

hi@staceymariekeba.com

It's not a bad thing to do background work, because you can network and may lead to jobs down the road. Just don't put it on your resume (keep it quiet) unless you really got bumped up and became featured.

Kelly McCaughan

kellynmccaughan@gmail.com

It's OK to be unapologetically you.

Luca Cundo

11luca28@gmail.com

It's always good to be reminded to trust not only ourselves but casting and others who are part of a production.

Chris Evans

chris@chrisevansmedia.com

Aaron was great! My takeaway was that you can use good self tapes for your reel! This was great to find out since I definitely need footage!