



Takeaways from Actors' Think Tank, August 23, 2022

Rachel Goldman - Barden Schnee Casting

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Rich Henkels

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I appreciated the detail in the description of “outside dates”. Pursuing co-stars to get myself on the map, I needed that to fully understand that being available “most of the time” may not be good enough to break through. Had a situation this summer where the outside dates conflicted with a personal planned event; Rachel’s explanation clarified the myriad considerations casting is making when looking at people like myself for roles. When possible, make it easy to cast you!

Kelly McCaughan

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Rachel had so much awesome advice. My favorite was the reassurance about slate shots! I feel like actors get really hung up on them and she was very clear about not worrying about it too much AND explained why (which made so much sense). Thank you, Rachel!!

Luca Cundo

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"Never have a slate shot", on casting sites.

Kaitlyn Diehl

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Ah! So many great nuggets of information! One thing that stood out to me was Rachel's love for actors! She talked about advocating for those she brings in and knows are right for the role, and watching the person who ended up getting the job on TV, still sitting there knowing HER actor would have been more perfect. I love that! And she mentioned missing being in the room with actors in order to do redirects. It was just really interesting hearing her perspective from the casting side, and it demystifies the stereotype of the elusive, scary casting director. She's on our team!

Gabi Faye

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Fun and filled with educational gems, Rachel was the perfect mix of a guest. I love how she defined a chemistry read as who makes who a better actor, and harped on the importance of availability and flexibility-having those + an easygoing attitude is the recipe for more bookings.

Roz Jamal

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My takeaway from Rachel is her explanation of "Outside Dates", which is the time between the beginning and end of a project, in which the talent must be available and that having a busy calendar is not impressive to Rachel for lesser known artist because she prefers not to have to work around your schedule.

Shauna Hurley-Hansen

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I absolutely loved our session with Rachel. She gave us so many clever, insightful and humorous pieces of information. I appreciate Rachel's background, love and respect for theatre. Rachel encouraged us to do something (within reason!) to make our self tapes stand out. To make it interesting and exciting so that we catch the Casting Director's eye. Also, that it's not necessary to eat a whole bag of Fritos as a prop in a scene. Too distracting! Thank you Rachel for bringing your warmth, wit and wisdom to The Actor's Think Tank. Bravo!

Marcie Ryan

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Takeaway - Thank you Rachel for the very informative insight on your CD process. Knowing that booking the role is out of our control always is good to hear. What stood out to me in the conversation is when you said not to do the scene how you first read the scene, make a unique choice that will stand out in the sea of self tapes and slate at the so that the CD can see the scene first and not be taken out of it by the slate. Some other bits of information that stuck out to me is that day players are there to serve the scene, so when doing a day player audition make sure your audition is moving the scene along and not slowing it down, by making long winded choices.

Jeannette Nina

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So many juicy gems in this one! Big take away, the AA slate actually having the potential to be a negative. I also really enjoyed learning the process of how you sort through audition tapes!

Dina Laura

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“If you don’t need it, don’t use it.” Unless a prop provides something crucial to the scene, get rid of it, because it could end up taking away from the energy of the scene and the acting work you’re doing. Thank you so much, Rachel, for all of your nuggets of wisdom!

Justine Reiss

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Enjoyed Rachels candid manor, talking to us as peers.

SLATE shots, - NEVER HAVE ONE. They will not help you, they will only hurt you, if I look at your slate shot, there will never be a reason that will help you. It will only rule you out. Don’t give me that chance to rule you out before I see your audition.

I don’t love a lot of props, that’s just me.

Lindsay Michelle Reed

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Loved this session with Rachel! Biggest take away "Day players are there to serve the scene and to move it along"

Shelley Brietling
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There were so many valuable nuggets of information during our session, although the one thing that stood out the most for me, is when Rachel spoke about making your audition tape stand out. When reviewing the scene prior to taping, make sure you look for something in the dialogue that can help to make the scene fresh, make it more interesting, so the CD stops and takes notice. After viewing hundreds of self-tapes by the CD, the need to make your self-tape stand out is paramount.

Paul Blumenthal
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Rachel does chemistry reads to see who makes whom a better actor and is happy when she has chosen that actor and they have done well.

Jackie Diehl
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It was incredibly interesting to hear Rachel's perspective on slate shots and also including your slate last in self tapes rather than first. I haven't heard this feedback before, but it made a lot of sense (and was also relieving to hear that most CD's in film & tv will likely review all submissions and not just the ones brought to the top by the ActorsAccess algorithm). Thanks a lot for all of your help, Rachel!

Stacey Marie Keba
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My takeaway from Rachel's session was that it's really important to make yourself a local for outside dates. Now that I'm in LA, that knowledge will come in handy when going out for roles that film back east! And it will certainly make my dad happy that I get to have some extra time back home to visit. :)

Victoria Stevens
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Rachel opened my eyes to how Casting Directors see slate shots verses how actors see them. It was very interesting to learn that they could hinder you over helping you. I am glad she also talked about doing something different than what was on the page in order to book the role. I think I am going to look more closely to what is not on the page when I am auditioning for roles now.

Tyler McKenzie
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Rachel was fantastic, informative, funny and I'll never look at SlateShots the same way again. It was interesting to learn about her process in viewing countless self-tapes as well as what we can do to stand out in ours, that is of course, making a unique choice.