

takeaways from Actors' Think Tank, February 12, 2023

Hilary Greer - Casting Director/Actor

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Luca Cundo

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"When we act we are exchanging energy back and forth", what an awesome perspective. Totally improved my thinking. Thank you

Marcie Ryan

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Thank you! Hillary, your passion for acting and casting provided a unique perspective, the importance of demonstrating the ability to follow directions which starts with the audition and making strong choices by giving meaning to the words with your own point of view, bringing yourself to the character.

Rich Henkels

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If you feel like you've "filled every corner" in a take, use it and don't worry about a second take. Hilary's example of "missing direction that says the character 'put down the guy' is wonderfully instructive. I suppose that is what "filling every corner" is all about. That's what a CD notices.

Shauna Hurley-Hansen

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I just adore people that know about the craft of acting and understanding people's energy. My takeaway from Hilary is that in a scene the other person is the most important person. Bring your energy to your scene partner! Such value in today. Wonderful!

Thomas Michael Harding

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My favorite, out of many takeaways, was remembering to live in the real moment and not just following actions and such as listed in scenes. The example of how a police officer would feel about being told to put down his gun and by whom illicit many possibilities that should be registered by the characters demeanor. If you come living with the pre created life and career of a police officer in that situation your thoughts should flow and be expressed naturally, not merely a physical action.

Mike Provenzano

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Great session and all the true tips that can help us all. Making your scene partner the most interesting person in the room is your job hit home for me as if you truly actively listen you can engage with your scene partner based on not just what they said but how they said it. Doing your prep work and throwing it away when live allows us to be ready for whatever our scene partner brings to us.

Kaitlyn Diehl

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I loved your energy, Hilary! You seemed so kind and genuine. Thank you so much for joining us! I took a ton away from what you said, but here's one highlight I'm going to hold onto: "Interesting people are interested in others. To be engaging, be engaged!" It reminds me of a deeper version of the classic principle of listening when in a scene. If you are really listening, you will really be engaged and interested, and your genuine reactions will be more interesting as a result!

Gabi Faye

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I loved the comparison you made to putting a tone on emails or texts as you read them (which yes I totally do) As an actor we get to choose our point of view- this is what makes us unique and draws the audience in to watch our performance.

Dina Laura

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"The right role is coming to everybody... that surgical glove fit. Be that person who feels deserving. Do your thing, let it go and stay in class. Keep up-leveling!"

Lynia Love

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Everyone is castable, your acting is your instrument so use that fully and trust that you are a good actor.

Parker Damm

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I learned a lot from Hilary. My biggest takeaway was to believe believe, believe in the character and the circumstances. I also really enjoyed the discussion about the opening of a self tape. Only two seconds!

Jeannette Nina

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Loved your in-depth advice on how to provide two different takes, as this is something I am working on specifically in class this month. "Bored people are boring. Interesting people are interested in other people." - that stuck with me.

Roz Jamal

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My takeaway is to make clear choices. If sending more than one take, be sure they are very different, otherwise we may look indecisive. When contacting a Casting Director be friendly, but not familiar and always keep learning.

Joelle Denise

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Oh I have a few of them but I will stick with 2 things she said. The first being "2 takes of the same/similar feels like you are not confident." This was eye opening, because I know I have been guilty of doing one take and then there's another that I've done and I can't decide between the two because they are so similar. I need to dig deeper in that regard. The second takeaway is "Everybody is castable. There's nothing that you need to change". This is so refreshing to hear.