

Takeaways from Actors' Think Tank, October 13, 2022

Logan Riley Bruner - Actor/Writer

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Luca Cundo

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"It is all about doing the work to best serve the story"

Sandra Bulk

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Logan, you were an absolute pleasure and provided so many insights! The one thing you said that made me sort of stop in my tracks was, "Writers don't like writing new characters." While other guests have noted that if people like working with you, they'll find ways to bring you back, it had never occurred to me that it could be a case of, "Hey, we liked him/her, why don't we just bring that character back for this scene instead of finding someone new?" That really reinforced how much actually *IS* in our control, especially when it comes to our attitude on set. Thank you so much!

Rich Henkels

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"When preparing for a scene, before being called to set, I 'sit with my circumstances and the tone of the scene' and listen to music that helps me get there. Then, with a good PA, I can walk to set, mentally prepped, and hand my earpieces to them when I get to set."
(paraphrased) Such a great strategy and wonderful explanation of how he prepares and is thus READY when it is time to prepare.

Mike Provenzano

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My takeaway is all about your essence Logan. I really love the bits you gave us, but you really reminded me of me in the ways you say you feel blessed and that you love helping others. I wish I was where you are in this regard when I was your age. That stood out with me more than you know.

Stacey Marie Keba

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My takeaway from Logan's session was in regards to the specific job of managers and asking yourself if you need one during certain phases of your career. When looking for a new one, see what connections they have that you're missing.

Lindsay Michelle Reed

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If an actor throws a writer's words away during an audition, it makes the writer think that the actor is better at their job than them. I never thought of it that way before, but it makes sense!

Kaitlyn Diehl

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LOGAN! You were so inspirational. Seriously. Thank you for being such a kind and genuine guy. A lot of things stood out to me, but I think my favorite was your answer to my question about preparing on set - especially that music moves you and if you listen to specific music and sit in the circumstances, it gets you to the right place for your scene. As much as music makes me feel all sorts of emotions in my regular life, I haven't used it a ton to connect to a scene. I'm going to start trying to incorporate it more! Thank you!!

Kelly McCaughan

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I loved when Logan talked about how he conducted himself on set. I usually feel like I need to be quiet and out of everyone's way, but it's actually BETTER to get to know everyone and make it a point to learn names etc. (As long as they're not obviously busy with task) Thanks so much, Logan!!!

Catalina Conrad

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"Sometimes you need a pit bull agent who will deal with the scary producers that want to take advantage of actors."

Justine Reiss

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Honor the words on the page because they were written for a reason and improvising your audition could alienate the writer/producer who poured their soul into their script and those very words.

Our job as actors is to make those words work - so question yourself when you are tempted to improv in auditions unless asked.

Tyler McKenzie

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Logan was awesome and super kind! I loved how connected and passionate he is about his craft. One quote that stuck with me was the one that changed his view on acting, "don't look at yourself acting from across the street, just step into yourself". That will always be a reminder to myself, now.

Dina Laura

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Logan was a DELIGHT - and that's given I was in a hospital room listening over audio! There were so many takeaways, but my biggest was the reinforcing the notion that WHO you are is every bit as important as WHAT your talent is, when it comes to booking work. Thank you for sharing your insights and wisdom, Logan!

Gabi Faye

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We are all here to serve the story. Understand that everyone on set is equally important, and demonstrate that you believe this by learning everyone's name. Being a team player who adds value to the production just might get you invited back for more. What a valuable and amazing session Logan. Can't wait to see what's next for you!

Paul Blumenthal

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At 25 years old, Logan is wise beyond his years. He is insightful, inspiring and well used to hard work. He encourages to never forget that what we are doing is fun. Even when doing a self tape try to comply with the stage directions. Show the physicality right before the scene and right after. If that is not practical use miming when you can.

Jamie Vaughan

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Logan was so incredibly generous with his time and knowledge. I loved when he said that as an actor you need to remember that you like this and its supposed to be fun. Obviously, you need to take your craft seriously but you still need to find joy in the process.

Mariel McIntosh

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Thank you Logan for reinforcing how important it is to have fun in this industry. "When you get the opportunity to get into big rooms, have a fun energy. People want to work with actors they know will be great to be around." I appreciated this because, as actors we all want to get the job and can forget to just be ourselves when it matters.

Shelley Brietling

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"The audition...is the real work". Doesn't matter how many times you hear this, it validates the importance of being seen and being seen at your best.

Also, don't improv during an audition unless otherwise stated. "If the words are on the page, it's important and they are there for a purpose".

I love that you want to work with Sam Rockwell. I think he is an amazing actor and so thrilled to see him getting such challenging roles. He handles them with perfection. I hope you get the chance to work with him.

Jeannette Nina

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Instead of asking what does casting want, ask yourself, "how would I exist in this world..." I love that approach to an audition! Also the tip for acting out physicality in a self-tape by feeling the moment before and after if unable to do the physical action is super helpful!!

Jackie Diehl

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It's hard for me to come up with just one takeaway!! But it really stood out to me when Logan said that he approaches auditions as if he is trying to get his scene partner the role rather than himself. It takes off a load of pressure. Thanks for your amazing insight, Logan. I'll be sure to make it a point to get everyone's names next time I'm on set!

Marcie Ryan

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Thank you Logan really enjoyed the conversation and appreciated your experience and insight, what stood out for me was when you were talking about knowing how to treat people and talk to people, and that you will make sure you know everyone's name on set, that is amazing. Connecting with people is important.