

### **Notes from Actors' Think Tank**

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#### **Rachel Reiss**

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- I. Slates end at 7:32
  - A. During pandemic she pivoted to VO
  - B. Helps producers hone in on what they want
  - C. Then helps it applicable to the actor
  - D. Auditions the talen
  - E. Craft the auditions to work for the producer
  - F. Help with call backs
  - G. She works from beginning to almost end
  - H. Some clients give her more say in who actually gets hired
- II. Morning Routine (11:34)
  - A. Starts with email
  - B. Then continues on to a day of zoom and email
  - C. Actors are getting better at zom
  - D. Lighting can be a challenge
  - E. Also backgrounds
- II. Self Tapes (13:46)

A.I am more forgiving for background pics etc.

- B.I just want to see your performance
- C. Do not distract me with your background though
- D. Bad audio or a bad reader can be more distracting

## III. Reader (15:50)

- A. It's ok if you do not have a reader
- B. If you are a reader, follow the performer and let them lead
- C. Keep your energy more neutral
- D. Let the person on camera make the decision
- E. The readers job is to assist and not steal the spotlight

# IV. Team Element (18:35)

- A. She loves to collaborate
- B. She focuses more on scripted things like indie films, animation and VO
- C. How do you decide what to cast?
  - a. She looks for projects we want to be part of
  - b. She is networking
  - c. Much work is through referrals
  - d. She has to be creative and look for new faces and exciting decisions
  - e. She has to bring something new to a project and not what other CD's will bring
- V. Benefits of Current Situation (21:37)
  - A. You don't have to live in NYC
  - B. Downfall is lack of human connection

# **VI.** Animation (24:18)

- A. She has an opportunity to direct a bit more
- B. She loves when people put themselves in the shoes of character
- C. Strong decisions are so important

# D. Strong decisions will make her want to bring them in for other things

### VII. Voice Over

- A. If just starting, record yourself
- **B. Sound conversational**
- C. Learn the vocab and tech side of it
- D. Get training
- E. Liz Lewis is fun because she can take actors and let them cross genres

## VII. CSA (32:53)

- A. She's a big fan
- **B. It's now the Casting Society**
- C. She is on the Board of Directors and chairs different committees
- D. It's great to be part of
- E. In NYC it's a close community

## VIII. Commercials (38:21)

- A. Many big actors start here
- B. Plenty of commercials where celebrities have started

# **IX.** Auditions (45:41)

- A. Use props that make sense
- B. Keep props simple
- C. Do not let background be too distracting