

Takeaways from Actors' Think Tank

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Valorie Massalas - Casting Director

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Lindsay Reed

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Zoom out to a wider frame when doing action shots so the casting director can see more of the action.

Luca Cundo

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Put attention into every detail and show up with your creativity

Lydia Gilbert

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Respect..... the audition process, the preparation, the profession and the position the person holds.... There is no bottom, it is all an important tapestry!

Lisa Minakowski

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Being unique is innate.....

Adding to it takes away!

Don't be afraid to be yourself! Do your homework and bring your best to each audition because casting directors send people they know what won't make them look bad. And run your audition by an acting coach if you can.

Ana Hoffman

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"Being who you are is what makes you unique. Adding to it, takes away. The more junk you put on it, the more unattractive it becomes."

Sandra Bulk

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"Being just who you are is more important than anything you can bring into that room. You're already unique. It's innate. Adding to it actually takes away." Boom. Best reminder to just be your truthful self in everything you do.

Rosalyn Jamal

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Valorie was authentic. I loved her persona. What resonated with me was her saying that although she prefers in person auditions, actors now have a great opportunity to control the slate, so be yourself, know the role, bring something extra to the audition and submit excellent material.

Ginger Fries

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I loved Valorie's visit with her great personality and wealth of experience! My takeaway was her insight; 'Sometimes when you try to make magic, it takes it away. Don't try to put on something. Unique is innate.'

I feel that blends in with an earlier comment- that the director may lean toward actors with ideas they haven't thought of. So, when we bring our unique qualities and make a strong choice relevant to the genre and circumstance, we should stand confident in that.

Kelly McCaughan

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Always be yourself. If you're not being yourself you're taking away from your interaction and the very thing that makes you special and or stand out.

Mike Provenzano

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It's a huge accomplishment if someone remembers you. Try to rub elbows with the best coaches of today. Use an acting coach whenever you have the opportunity to submit for any larger roles. This information is so accurate. Great session, thanks so much!!

Paula Lee Miccaulif

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Today was indeed a valuable meeting for us actors. I was very fortunate to have a wonderful casting director/turned acting coach, Lawrence Parke. So much of what Valorie had to say resonated with me. My take-away from this meeting was "Be yourself, don't add to it. Be natural, professional, be prepared, and do your homework"

Rich Henkels

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When you don't book a role after an audition, it ISN'T because of something you DIDN'T do, but rather because someone else that special something that met the role. No matter how hard you try, you can't do something to "make it happen". Try being a reader in a room for a casting sometime so you can see what it is that throws actors off their game, or separates one actor from another.

Colleen Wyse

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“Once you have your foot in the door, you are not on the bottom.” Good quote to remember when starting anything new.

Paul Blumenthal

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Know that the burden is on us to be creative and that casting will pay more attention to a precise and prepared audition. Once we get our foot in the door we are in the business and not at the bottom rung - every hand you shake is important in this business.

Harriet Dobin

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“With self tape auditions Actors have more control than ever before. If you don't like your hair, makeup, slate, delivery you can do it over!

Focus on the material and not the bells and whistles. The more junk you put on it the more unattractive it is. Adding to it just takes away from your performance.

The first person you see at an audition has an influence, every hand you shake is a person in this business. “

Dina Laura

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My favorite takeaway was “Sometimes being yourself is the most important thing you can bring into that room. It makes you unique.” I couldn't agree more, so here's to hoping we all get to be in the room again soon! Thank you, Valerie, for that wonderful advice!

Justine Reiss

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Be nice to everyone. Every hand you shake is potentially a person in the business that can help you down the road.

We've lost the personable moment. Let's do what we can to get it back.