



Takeaways from Actors' Think Tank, November 10, 2022

Shaan Sharma - Actor/SAG guru

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Shelby Hightower
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My takeaway is new found admiration, love, and excitement for the union!

Catalina Conrad
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Caliber of storytelling in major markets is way higher than in secondary markets.

Rich Henkels
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The SAG agreement is 814 pages, and no one has the time or patience (?) to read it thoroughly, then operate according to the letter of the contract. That's a problem, as actors are losing \$ as a result and misunderstandings are a constant.

Shauna Hurley-Hansen
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Shaan offered The Actor's Think Tank so many valuable, essential details about the history and the importance of SAG and also about how to be who you are as Actor and how that helps get you hired and keeps you getting re-hired. My takeaway from Shaan was his heartfelt approach about being au-

thentic and knowing who you are. I've always had such good experiences with SAG and it's so nice to meet someone like Shaan who takes pride at being such a strong voice for the community.

Kaitlyn Diehl

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Thank you for joining us!! I really needed to learn so much of that and I didn't even know my knowledge gap was so wide! I would say what stood out to me was that Ficore, in essence, undermines SAG and it's ability to fight for actors. I always hear so many rumors about it, so it was great to get to the truth.

Lindsay Michelle Reed

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I think the overall take away I got was this big reminder that the union is created from the blood, sweat, and tears of many people over many years to get us safe and protected working conditions as actors and crew. I was reminded how important unions are and what it means to work within a union to keep the value and purpose of the union alive.

Jeannette Nina

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Shaan, you are a wealth of knowledge! It's hard to pick just one takeaway as there were many. I really love your POV of actors not being a brand/type and the cereal metaphor. We hear that so often from the industry, it was nice to be reminded that we are our essence, not a product. Also love "If you want to be a lead, you've got to be a leader."

Mariel McIntosh

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I really enjoyed and learned so much during this session! Shaan cleared up a lot of misconceptions I had about the union. It was good to hear about the differences between budget levels. I didn't realize that the Union's intention behind creating a micro budget project category was to give union for actors an opportunity to create their own projects.

Marcie Ryan

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We as actors are not a brand, it is more like we are the essence of a character that I very much appreciated because I feel the same way. I also gained more insight in reference to SAG and how beneficial the union can be for actors. Thank you for all the great information.

Jackie Diehl

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It really stood out to me when Shaan said that we're NOT a brand or a type. We're an essence, a vibe, and a collection of qualities - not a product to be sold. I LOVE THAT!! Also, I had no idea how much the union is there to help actors and I will certainly try to implement those resources when I move to Atlanta and eventually join.

Luca Cundo

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Wow, amazing. I am a long shot away from even being considered union but what great knowledge. I dream of joining. Also what a great quote "if you are everything you are nothing".

Thomas M. Harding

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My takeaway is greatly appreciating your honesty about SAG-AFTRA. I've been a member for a few years now and joined too soon, completely my fault. My local SAG and market is Philadelphia which as a secondary market doesn't offer much Union work. As you've pointed out most local casting directors have their "go to" people and with the small amount of Union jobs available local competition is fierce. The majority of the work is NU commercials and my management has been hounding me to go FiCore which I push back on. I'm grateful folks like you are addressing this at the upper levels of SAG.

Roz Jamal

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My takeaway from Shaan is that the union sets the bar for the industry and not being under a union contract takes away protections. In addition, that actors need to be authentic, know who they are, own their careers and take responsibility.

Jamie

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Shaan was such an incredible resource regarding SAG. My biggest take-away was his message about letting your personality come through when auditioning and submitting materials.

Justine Reiss

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This 5 word slate exercise is a good one to consider when meeting CD's, giving them something tangible to walk away with about me. Embracing the dark and the light in us is a great thing to do when playing roles and thinking about casting.

Shelley Brietling

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I loved how Shaan spoke about each individual actor as having an "Essence" about themselves. He did not like using the word "Brand". If we get to know the quality of a person, a sense of self, it helps to find the role in which we fit. As long as we are being authentic in how we see ourselves, others will see us that way too.

It was great when we were able to physically be in the casting room for an audition. The Casting Director would have the opportunity to ask questions, get to know us on a more personal level. Sending in self-tapes takes that special one on one time away. We as actors don't get the chance to show our "essence". That is an unfortunate and missed opportunity these days.

Mike Provenzano

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I really enjoyed so many bits of information that cleared things up for me and I loved your line of be the person like a person in the industry when you

are on set. Thinking about the actors I look up to made this really resonate with me. I'm glad I already try my best to be this way anyway but it's really great to hear that you are also telling this to so many other people too.

Kelly McCaughan

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My takeaway is that we can get paid to audition!!!! There are also 450 staff members to have you navigate and understand the union. It's actually very empowering and way less intimidating after hearing from Shaan. Thank you so much!

Gabi Faye

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As a member of SAG-AFTRA you are on a team. Rally for that team's success instead of leaving when there are things you don't like. I resonate with this community building and uplifting each other and see Shaan as a role model for how he fights for better. Inspiring guy with so much knowledge and grit!