

Takeaways from Actors' Think Tank, July 21, 2022

Adrienne Stern - Casting Director

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Rosalyn (Roz) Jamal

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Adrienne shared so much wisdom with us, however, several things that really impressed me were: to be professional at all times; "drop the props" with self tapes and do the following to ensure success: have your elevator pitch ready, work on short films and attend film festivals.

Rich Henkels

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While I knew there was complexity to the work done by a CD, I really liked the metaphor you used, comparing the work you do, the responsibilities you have, to someone doing a 10,000 piece puzzle. The thought reminds me, as an actor, to step back and see things through your lens. A lot for you to think about.

Stacey Marie Keba

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What I really loved from Adrienne was her advice for attending more film festivals, whether or not you have a film premiering there or not. It's a great way to meet contacts and build relationships with potential collaborators...plus, it's a great incentive to always have your elevator pitch ready to go!

Jackie Diehl

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Adrienne's 3 critical tips to help build an acting career were incredibly helpful to me. Have your elevator pitch ready, create your own content, and attend film festivals. Great pointers. Thanks a lot for the informative meeting, Adrienne, and I hope to work together one day in the future!

Shauna Hurley-Hansen

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Adrienne gave us so many useful tools we can all use as Actor's. My takeaway would be to make films and submit them to film festivals. Buy a day pass and go to the festivals or volunteer! Create your own material now, because there are no obstacles. Thank you, Adrienne, for spending time with us today!

Justine Reiss

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Think of yourself as a kiosk or a sign on a bus, every time I see your name, you take a class with me, I can think in terms of your brand, then when the next thing comes along I will call you in.

Make short films, get tog w/friends, submit to festivals, go network etc...

Volunteer, buy a ticket, have fun, You never know who will be there.

Luca Cundo

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Rich asked you about your personal rewards for casting a good project and I feel the same way about my acting. The accolades aren't as important as just being able to keep working and doing what I love.

Mariel McIntosh

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In terms of your type, don't pigeonhole yourself. Let the casting Director see you where they can fit you in.

Gabi Faye

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What Adrienne shared about our "pitches" was very clever. When pitching yourself to a CD, agent or other industry professional, choose current shows you could fit in to, so the receiving person can make the immediate connection. Not everyone will know older shows or actors. This is the first time I heard this, and it makes great sense!

Dina Laura

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It's okay to pass on an audition if you feel it's not right for you. I always feel like I have to say "yes" to everything, and it was a breath of fresh air to hear that it's also okay to say "no" in certain circumstances. Thank you, Adrienne, for an hour full of nuggets of gold!

Kaitlyn Diehl

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My overall takeaway from Adrienne is basically not to be "flowery" when it comes to approaching the business side of acting. know what your role is, and deliver just that. No need to get fancy with props, or crazy emails; keep it short, sweet, professional, and do your job well!

Lindsay Michelle Reed

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One of the three things suggested for actors to do is go to film festivals. It is a great way to network. I will definitely be going to more film festivals in the future after hearing this advice.

Shelley Brietling

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What I got most from Adrienne's session was her 3 most important things to know when kick starting your career or even getting your current career a boost.

1) Have an elevator pitch ready and available. Promote yourself. Highlight your most recent work and what you will be working on in the future. You are your best advocate.

2) Make short films. Develop your own content. Create your own material. Actors are your best friends, your community for reaching out and putting a team/crew together. Utilize that to your advantage.

3) Enter into film festivals and attend film festivals. Network. This is the best way to promote yourself and your work. Kind of goes hand and hand with your elevator pitch and making short films.

All three are key to working, growing and developing the craft of acting.

Mike Provenzano

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Thanks for a great session today Adrienne!! For me I think what resonated the most was that actors should be making short films. The fact that we all know people in the industry should make this easily achievable by anyone. Sure it will take effort to do, but it's certainly well worth the effort.

Shelby Hightower

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I loved the image of us kind of being like ads on a bus or something that just goes by her field of vision. Just like little reminders of our existence. No need for a page of writing.

Victoria Stevens

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Adrienne was very informative. I was happy that she told us to have our elevator pitch down and gave us some examples. It helped me a lot to learn what to say and what not to say. Thanks for the help.

Craig A. Woolridge

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"Have your elevator pitch down"