

Takeaways from Actors' Think Tank, June 29, 2022

Sareva Racher - Casting Director, Mid-Atlantic Region

Email: sarevaracher@aol.com

Rosalyn Jamal

arjamal@verizon.net

My takeaway for Sareva is that because she has sent great talent to her clients she books direct. She is very pro talent. Three keys to success with Sareva: Listen, React, and Follow Directions.

Sandra Bulk

snbulk1@gmail.com

Sareva, it was so nice finally putting a face to the name! You dropped so much great information, but what really blew me away was your generosity with your time. I have never experienced a casting director inviting actors to reach out any time via email or text or offering to view audition tapes and provide feedback before we send them. I so appreciate that (and the fact that you're a fellow night owl)!

Rich Henkels

rkhenkels@gmail.com

While the idea of just "following directions" given by a Casting Director makes sense on its own, Sareva's take that "they don't know you, the client doesn't know you" gives that much more clarity to why you should always go the extra mile when submitting, doing a self tape, and following up. It might be a "1st exposure" to a client who uses talent over and over again.

Kaitlyn Diehl

kaitlyndiehlactor@gmail.com

I can't thank you enough for meeting with all of us today! Your kind and genuine spirit was so refreshing! My main takeaway was that reputation is *everything* in this industry, and that people are always paying attention and filing away little details about you, even when you might not notice. Some of the stories you shared about clients or casting directors not calling back actors because of things they overheard were very eye-opening!

Professionalism and timeliness go a long way. Thanks again!

Gabi Faye

Actressgabifaye@gmail.com

As actors, you are always on display: your voicemail, your slate, your social media, the way you speak when you think no one is listening! Be wary and always put your most professional self forward, no matter the place or situation.

Shelley Brietling

sbrietling@gmail.com

A very important lesson learned from Sareva, the less you say on set and the less you say on your slate, the better for you as a talent. You never know what may be taken the wrong way and what may hurt you in the end.

Also, be careful what you put out there on social media. If the casting hasn't been set, it's best to keep things under wraps. Best to wait until the project has been finalized and you have approval from the production company.

Mike Provenzano

mike@mlprov.com

What a great session today!! Thanks for all of the candid shares you gave us. I think for me the one thing that stuck out more than anything else was something that we should all just really know and to always do a ¾ to full body portion of your slate so the client can get a good look at your body vs. only seeing you from your chest / shoulders on up. Thanks again!!

Stacey Marie Keba

hi@staceymariekeba.com

My biggest takeaway from all the knowledge Sareva shared was that loose lips sink ships! Stay quiet and don't go spouting your business on set (or in the casting office), because you don't know who's listening. This even includes stating your location / where you traveled from, age-range, and other projects you're working on.

Jackie Diehl

jackiediehlactor@gmail.com

It really stood out to me when Sareva mentioned some of the reasons why an actor might not return to work with a client or not get booked at all - like if the client doesn't understand your slate or if the client thinks you're being too braggy on set. The less you say in your slate and on set, the better!! Thanks for the great insight Sareva. Can't wait to work together



Kelly McCaughan

Kellynmccaughan@gmail.com

I loved when Sareva spoke about availability and the importance of communication and commitment. You can lose an opportunity just as fast as you get one.

Mariel McIntosh

marielmcintosh1@gmail.com

I appreciated your insight from a Casting Director's point of view. One of several things that stood out to me was what you said about slates. Often times as actors, we overlook the sound element of our slates. Not speaking clearly may impact whether or not we book the job.

Justine Reiss

justinereissvo@gmail.com

Sereva was so authentic and told us like it is,

Loved how she said I'll help you if I can! I am the messenger!!

I can send you out and give you the chance, the rest is up to you!

So many actors don't have a clue and send in tapes where they are just reading the scripts, no acting. Be better than that!

Luca Cundo

11luca28@gmail.com

"Bragging on social media doesn't mean anything". Love your outlook. I've always been a proponent of letting the work and talent speak for itself.

Jeannette Nina

jplenzick@gmail.com

Lots of fantastic info in one hour, Sareva, thank you! Keep your commitments, be professional and don't say too much on set or in your slate. Always be checking email and text and most importantly communicate availability.

Lindsay Michelle Reed

Lindsay.m.reed1@gmail.com

When you do a self-tape, film so casting can see some of your body. They don't know what your body looks like!

Marcie Ryan

marcier75@gmail.com

I really enjoyed the conversation with Sareva. She really opened my eyes to being more aware of what I send to casting for my self tape auditions ensuring that I always send my best. Also, I need to smile more in my headshots. Being available means you literally are available. But what I appreciated most was her honesty and willingness to help actors. I definitely will be reaching out. Thank you.

Craig Woolridge

caw2062@gmail.com

Blue is the best color for headshots and auditions.

Paul Blumenthal

pblumenthal@comcast.net

Sareva is very generous with her time. She is always available to talent to answer questions, review sides, and help prepare for an audition.