

Takeaways from Actors' Think Tank, February 22, 2023

Kendra Castleberry - Casting Director

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Jeff Neckonoff

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Wow. As a new middle-aged actor, it was simply wonderful learning from you regarding the intricacies of the casting industry. You were so thoughtful & kind regarding the answers to the questions asked. I love how you responded to me regarding networking. I totally agree. I've succeeded in my current DJ business using a mix of talent, ethical behavior and networking. I barely advertise, and get 95% of my 125+ annual clients all from word of mouth. Thank you!

Rich Henkels

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Kendra's explanation of the Pilot Character Studio approval process was eye-opening. Everything is negotiated, even before it goes to the studio... 7-yr. deals... # of episodes... When it goes to studio, your getting the role comes with its price tag. Great industry knowledge.

Parker Damm

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I really enjoyed Kendra's focus on the role being right for the actor. That takes some pressure off of the acting in an audition.

Shelby Hightower

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Confidence is key. Don't let your ego or a fear of 'looking silly' get in the way of the craft. Have a healthy lack of vanity!

Sandra Bulk

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Kendra, the insight you gave that stands out for me is: "What catches my attention the most are actors with complete confidence and no vanity, who are willing to live in the character without apology. Be ready to play."

Thomas Michael Harding

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"Confidence and lack of vanity". Just go with it and you can't be self conscious. Pretty much sums what you need to bring!

Tyler McKenzie

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It was an honor having Kendra in the Think Tank! I have so many takeaways from this session, I could write a book! "Be okay to dive in", was something that I really needed to hear at this moment in my career. It's a reminder that I should welcome risks with open arms, both as a performer, and as a person.

Shauna Hurley-Hansen

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I am so drawn to people in the business who love what they do and also deeply understand Actor's and the process of Acting. My takeaway from our time with Kendra was that the more creative people you can interact with the better. Creative people like other creative people and it becomes about collaborating. Great session.

Kelly McCaughan

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Loved when Kendra spoke about being present. It really is the main thing that helps us listen effectively and enables us to do our best work instead of getting in our heads. It's a great reminder not only for acting but for our everyday lives. Thank you, Kendra!

Shelley Brietling

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What stood out for me the most in Kendra's session is, let your vanity go out the window and have confidence when you are in the room. Never let your nerves or

self-consciousness get in the way. This is your moment, live in that moment and just go for it.

Jamie Vaughan

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Kendra gave amazing advice throughout her time with us. However, my biggest takeaway was her advice to have confidence and a total lack of vanity. We must live in the moment and in the character. We need to become someone else's vision of the character. Don't resist the process!!

Roz Jamal

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Kendra shared a wealth of knowledge, but one memorable thing was that we never know what we're good at until we know what we're not good at. Be present and flexible.

Jackie Diehl

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Absolute confidence and a lack of vanity will go a long way as an actor. The first take is yours to show what you want to show. Have a point of view and feel good about it! Thank you Kendra 😊

Kaitlyn Diehl

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Thanks for spending time with us, Kendra! I learned so much, but something I never really knew before was the behind-the-scenes, step-by-step process from casting to producers to the network and the fact that you send over a batch of people, they may be approved or may not, and then you have to send another batch after feeling out what they like. Very interesting stuff.

Mike Provenzano

Currently taking a break from social media

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I really loved how you spoke about what the actor's job is when you said "to be present and collaborate in the moment" and that you need to become someone else's vision while not being resistant to direction or notes given to you. I think many people are only present on

set and forget that everyone else needs you to be present as well regardless of what department they may be in. Thanks for the great deep dive you shared with us.

Mariel McIntosh

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I loved when Kendra mentioned “just dive in”. Putting your best into an audition not only involves the all the things you do to prepare but also not caring how you look(ie. ugly crying face). Serve the character to the fullest.

Jeannette Nina

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The details of the step-by-step audition/self tape process the further one gets into an audition for a series regular on network tv was very eye opening!

Kim Cassandra

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Kendra's comment that an actor's job is to be present, collaborative, and in the moment was the most lasting one to me. I also noted that she mentioned that the industry is restructuring and we don't know what it's going to look like, She said to get good at procedurals though, because they are the only type of show that will never go away.