

Takeaways from Actors' Think Tank May 12, 2021

Anthony Werhun - Cornerstone Pictures

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Sandra Bulk

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Wow. I have to lead with how struck I was by Anthony's warmth and generosity, which leapt right through the screen. His opening statement, which he touched back upon several times, made the strongest impact on me: "Progress generally happens in the things you don't have to do." I think I need to get this printed up in poster size. I am one of those introverts who is learning to step outside her comfort zone and that idea is so motivating to me.

Harriet Dobin

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"Performance is a muscle. The more time you spend in this space the better it gets"

Mike Provenzano

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Anthony had a lot of great bits of information he shared today. I love the idea of reinventing yourself every few years, or at least taking a look at doing things you may not have done before. This does make you think about how you can stay fresh in the industry. Thanks for a great session today Anthony!!

Rosalyn Jamal

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I enjoyed Anthony's time with us. He said so many memorable things, but one that resonated with me was that progress is made in the places you don't need to be in reference to the Comcast opportunity that resulted from him modeling with Sherman the dog.

Colleen Wyse

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"Say YES to things!" Good advice for life. Acting, family, community service. It all counts and all adds up to a better life -- and resume!

Mariel McIntosh

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Leaning just a little into your role for a virtual casting goes a long way into bring the character to life.

Kelly McCaughan

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My takeaway today was: "Connections are often made in places where you are not needed"

Rich Henkels

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The downside to starting with a PDF pitch deck, to get a project picked up or funded, is your partner now gets a bigger slice of the pie for your idea, as they end up helping with the initial investment. If you can somehow self fund or get a sizzle reel to start, then you own more of the idea and can better steer where to pitch it as the project becomes more real. Net-net, it is easy to get lost when you are "crafting from the ground up."

Gabi Faye

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People often ask what is it about acting and entertainment that you love? It's a tough answer to put into words, but Anthony nailed it - "being present" I seek to be present through meditation and other means and find it very difficult, but today Anthony made me realize that I can find the present in my auditions and acting work. A lightbulb moment, and a gift!

Diana Wrobel

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Say yes to things you normally don't see the path forward to

Dina Laura

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I will never forget Anthony saying this: "Progress is made in the places you don't need to be." As I've been working on organizing the things I should be focusing on (or NOT focusing on), his words were something I needed to hear!

Lisa Minakowski

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"Say yes to things"

Lindsay Reed

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Branding yourself for an audition is helpful to give the casting director more reason to hire you because they have to use less imagination seeing you in the role.

Shelley Brietling

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One of the most important takeaway's for me is when Anthony spoke about an actor being able to take direction.

This stands out for me the most, because it did happen to me during a Zoom audition and helped me book the job.

He states how micro expressions are key and having the ability to smile with your eyes. Also, the talent having the skill to show something different in their work, especially when the director throws out an adjective and waits to see what you can do with that action. Being able to play, be confident, have strong energy when you walk into the audition room...this will set you above the others.

Stacey Marie Keba

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People want familiarity when it comes to watching television, so when you pitch your idea, it's important to choose a format that people can follow and understand whether they watch every episode or if tune out and tune back in two seasons later.

Tyler McKenzie

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While he had so many wonderful things to say, one thing that really stood out to me, was when he discussed actors taking direction. It was great insight into the casting process to know that directors are really looking for someone who is willing to "play" and show both sides of a piece of material. Knowing that, helps us in our preparation for an audition or callback!