



Takeaways from Actors' Think Tank, August 18, 2022

Jonathan Stanley - Hot Shots Self Taping

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Stacey Marie Keba
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My takeaway from Jonathan's session is that since auditioning is playing the lottery, it is worth it to do it on your own terms and take creative risks to bolster your chances. I will be using Hot Shot Self-Tapes in the future for sure.

Kaitlyn Diehl
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Everything he said was blowing my socks off. Seriously such valuable info! Most of all I loved his candid attitude towards self-tapes. He said to make the self tape your own and use props or sound effects if you need to. Stop giving a crap and trying so hard and that's when the magic begins. Have fun with them, because why else are you doing it? Very inspiring.

Rosalyn (Roz) Jamal
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Jonathan emphasized that because the acting business is challenging and very competitive, the actor must control everything they can such as: learning lines, not making excuses, creating your own content, playing roles that fit your personality and look and striving for excellence.

Rich Henkels
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A \$7K investment in his own project opened doors and was directly responsible for his being cast in General Hospital. You can't control Hollywood, but you can control the way you want to be seen.

Craig Woolridge
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“Just do the audition to the best of your ability. Also, memorize your lines”.

Shauna Hurley-Hansen
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Thank you to Jonathan for bringing so much joy into our Actor's Think Tank today. Jonathan possessed magical branding abilities through sheer instinct and a knowledge of what's being cast in the business right now. With Jonathan's all in attitude for every part he goes out for, it truly reminded me of all of the players in the movie Tootsie. All of those actor's would do anything they could for their craft and for a role. That was what Jonathan represented to me today. It was uplifting. Thank you!

Tyler McKenzie
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It was great having Jonathan in the tank! I loved his approach that self-tapes are your own mini-films, it makes the whole process much more enjoyable. After the session ended I filmed two self tapes with that in mind and they were more engaging than previous ones.

Gabi Faye
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The story you shared about Sammy - always help out your friends is a big takeaway. While auditions get you jobs, relationships will take you even further. Also appreciate his realness, you don't get that too often in Hollywood!

Luca Cundo
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"Just do what you do" - love it. I've been doing that for 31 years.

Shelley Brietling
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I loved the idea that Jonathan suggested, when looking to see what catches your attention in an actor...go to Instagram and flip through and see what stands out the most for you. What catches your eye, why does this particular person make you stop and take notice. Play the part of a casting director, put yourself in their shoes and use this method to help you understand their reasoning. Learn what works and what doesn't. Use this tool to your advantage. Great advice!

Tyler Jones-Palmer
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The biggest thing I took was "Go all-in." Having the right setup, working with a coach & being very careful with a reader if it's a favor.

Lindsay Michelle Reed
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Start scrolling on Instagram. See what grabs your attention and makes you stop scrolling. Figure out how to make your self-tapes and headshots stand out from other people by grabbing castings attention.

Shelby Hightower
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My head is spinning... I always play it safe because I'm one of those 'good students' perfectionists, but the fact that he makes self tapes like they are little movies is eye opening and exciting!

Victoria Stevens
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I learned so much about self- taping and what I might be doing wrong from Jonathan. What really hit me is when he said that you should be coaching through all your auditions. I knew that coaching was a big deal and I always

had to save up money for those times when I needed a coach to help me out. However, I never thought of coaching through all my auditions. I also loved the fact that he got a DP together to shoot scenes that he wrote and put them on actors' access. That is exactly where I am at. Make my own content and don't wait for the door to open on your career. You open it yourself.

Mariele McIntosh

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“Too many actors are desperate. Be yourself that’s the person who gets the job...the actor that cares the less gets the job.” Yes, very true and thank you for saying that. As actors we want to book the job. Because of this we can forget to be ourselves simply in an introduction to CDs.

Jackie Diehl

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It was really refreshing to hear Jonathan talk about how you don't necessarily need to conform to every little rule that is assumed to follow for audition tapes. Adding props, sound effects, etc., can be okay because this is MY solution to the problem that casting is looking for. It may or may not work, but this is the way I want to bring myself to the project. Thanks a lot Jonathan!

Mike Provenzano

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Thanks for your time with us Jonathan. I really appreciate your candor and honesty. I think for me the one thing that stuck out is that we need to think like Hollywood does. They know exactly what they are looking for so we need to present to them that way.