



Takeaways from Actors' Think Tank, November 2, 2022

January Curry, Casting Director

E-mail:

Kaitlyn Diehl

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January! You were so knowledgeable and warm!! Thank you for joining us. I think one thing that stood out the most for me was your tip on the best way to reach out to Casting Directors. I always want to connect, but don't want to be annoying, so that was a very helpful tip!

Sandra Bulk

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First, I have NO problem being cast as a "hot mom"! But, January, the piece of advice you gave that struck me the most was to look at what classes we can take to broaden our perspective and expand or change the "essence" we project. I think we all have our favorite coaches, but sometimes we need fresh eyes that see us in new ways. Thank you so much for that insight.

Rich Henkels

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With regard to agents, do the research to see what projects their clients have been cast in and what production companies they tend to work with. Made me realize I might well be rep'd by agents that don't play to what I am best suited for. Something worth thinking about and investigating if a change in course is called for.

Luca Cundo

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"We limit ourselves as actors". It's so true I agree when you say we have to be the first to really believe that we can play the role before anyone else can see it.

Jackie Diehl

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"The actor has to believe that they are that character before anyone else is going to believe it." I wrote down this quote from January and realized it also goes hand in hand with the idea of fully committing to a look or prop during an audition. Commit yourself fully to everything!! Thank you January for being so candid with us :)

Lindsay Michelle Reed

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January was so informative! Great info. I think the thing that I will always start doing is asking about preliminary dates for any casting. It will be so helpful to know that info sooner than later so I know how to prepare and if I'm available.

Shauna Hurley-Hansen

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Right off the bat, Ms Curry said that she is big on energy. Wonderful! She brought such positive, encouraging, feel good energy to The Actor's Think Tank. She was genuinely interested in who everyone was. My takeaway for Ms Curry is that as Actor's, we are our own 'walking comp card.' Our social media should have natural and current photo's & be present on there as well. I deeply appreciate the uplifting and present energy from today. Thank you very much!!!!

Kelly McCaughan

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I loved how January reminded us not to limit ourselves in what we can do. We are all capable of playing many different roles and sometimes creating

our own work is the best way to showcase that. Thank you for the fun session, January!

Catalina Conrad
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Have a backstory for your brand. It will come through as you project it.

Jeannette Nina
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I really like the term 'backstory branding'. It's making me think deeper into my own brand. Something that took me too long to nail down! It's so hard to pick just one takeaway... there were many. Thank you!

Stacey Marie Keba
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Sorry, Rich...my takeaway is the one you already claimed on the call...but it was too good & it was exactly what I needed to hear today. "Closed mouths don't get fed." Wow.

Mariel McIntosh
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January was great. I learned so much. One thing I took to heart is her advice on exploring your acting range. "If you're not booking roles you would like, maybe get a different acting coach. Someone new may be able to bring out something in you, something you never thought existed."

Parker Damm
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January had so many wonderful takeaways! My favorite was to incorporate a backstory into my brand/type. That makes me think of it as more of a story and less of a one-dimensional data point. I also enjoyed the advice to ask an agent how many people with my same brand/type they have on their roster.

Roz Jamal

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January commented on our energy today, but I also liked her energy. She exuded confidence, integrity and professionalism. My takeaway from January was regarding props, which was that if you use a prop don't fake it. I also liked the quotations from her grandmother, specifically "closed mouths don't get fed."

Rashad Alii

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I'm encouraged to know that it is encouraged for us to send two takes per scene!

Dina Laura

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January is truly a breath of fresh air! Reminding us that we have to first believe ourselves as the character before anyone else will, is exactly what I needed to hear. Thank you, January, for sharing your time and your many nuggets of wisdom!

Shelby Hightower

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I just loved how she kept stressing, 'it's your room.' I think that is something especially younger actors don't always fully realize. You belong there - own your time.

Justine Reiss

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Keep social media up to date, your # of followers do matter and have current photos so casting can see you RIGHT NOW, Not just your headshots - all things must be up to date, IMDB, resume and all of it.

Mike Provenzano

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When saying you can “work as a local hire” please remember to be honest. This strikes such a cord for me as the truth shall set you free. If we have a place to stay and can travel, why not go for it? Just remember what we are committing to and honor it for you will be remembered for not being honest or not being professional.

Shelley Brietling
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When discussing Branding, January expressed an actor must believe in their brand before they can play that role. If an actor would like to go outside of the brand most Agents and Casting Directors see them, pull scenes or sides from scripts that you would never think about doing and exercise your skills, strengthen your talent.