



Takeaways from Actors' Think Tank, October 27, 2022

Jennifer Peralta-Ajemian, Casting Director

E-mail: jen@jpa-casting.com

Sandra Bulk
snbulk1@gmail.com

Thank you so much for your insights, Jennifer! I asterisked half a dozen quotes, but I'm going with: "There's a reason it's called show BUSINESS." It's about developing long-term relationships. Make sure you understand the tone of the project you're working on (or submitting to).

Rich Henkels
rkhenkels@gmail.com

“Do a pottery class on the side. Just something to get yourself out of your head a bit, as an actor.” God, I need to remember that!!!

Shauna Hurley-Hansen
Purepilates@gmail.com

What struck a cord for me with Jennifer was her belief that you have to be your own biggest advocate, cheerleader and protector. This encompasses a variety of things. You're protecting yourself by making sure you connect with the roles you do, by balancing your mindset, by traveling and remaining expansive. By asking yourself if you're happy with the choices you're making. I truly appreciate these insights. Thank you Jennifer!

Mike Provenzano

mike@mlprov.com

I so agree and believe this line: tough conversations are part of this, if you're as honest and graceful as possible, it should be fine. It's not just what you say, more importantly, it's about how you say it. This rings true on so many levels. Wish I was able to be more involved, but a booking comes first.

Roz Jamal

arjamal@verizon.net

The questions Jennifer wanted us to answer in our slate were because she said she wants to know the person before the actor. That was impressive, as well as, Jennifer saying if an actor doesn't connect with the role they shouldn't take it and that we should continue to expansive vs. having tunnel vision.

Jackie Diehl

jackiediehlactor@gmail.com

...For the time that I got to meet you, it really stood out to me when you talked about how everybody has a story and it's important for you to see people as themselves before seeing them as an actor. It's easy to just feel like a number in this industry and it's refreshing to hear that you approach your job (and life!) by knowing the little things about people and what their story is. I can't wait to connect with you again soon :)

Kelly McCaughan

KellyNmccaughan@gmail.com

I appreciated when Jen reiterated the importance of open communication whether it be manager, agent, or potential collaborator. Having an honest and open conversation is really important.

Lindsay Michelle Reed

Lindsay.m.reed1@gmail.com

It was lovely to have Jennifer as our guest this week. I'd say the biggest thing I will remember is, "Even with representation you have to advocate for yourself."

Shelley Brietling
sbrietling@gmail.com

Jennifer recommends that you approach your work as an Artist, you much be your biggest advocate, biggest protector and biggest cheerleader. Also, she recommends traveling as much as you can. It's a great way to experience the world around us and learn from all the different cultures. It's important to be a people watcher. You can learn so much from studying other peoples mannerisms. Something unique and creative that you can bring to your own work as an actor. This will go along with her 3 B's philosophy: Be open to new experiences: Be authentic: Be aware.

Parker Damm
parkodamm@gmail.com

Jennifer really helped me better understand the timeline of casting, especially in film. Sometimes when talking about TV casting, it feels rushed and focused on just filling out the episode so they can wrap. She told us she has been casting two projects for six months now. Which is crazy but also makes sense when looking for specific types that are perfect for the role.

Gabi Faye
Actressgabifaye@gmail.com

I loved when you said the length of your resume won't mean anything when you're 6 feet under- so consider the choices you make in life and ask yourself if you are happy with and proud of those. I really appreciated the reminder that there are other priorities besides the pursuit of your career. Be mindful of the time you have on earth, use your time wisely and be proud of your decisions whether in your career or in life.

Stacey Marie Keba
hi@staceymariekeba.com

My takeaway from Jen is to keep relationships at an arms length in order to make clear business choices, to charge what you're worth, and to be brave enough to take on difficult conversations.

Dina Laura
dina.laura@gmail.com

Jen shared a wealth of information, particularly about the indie film world, with a unique perspective that I truly resonated with. My biggest takeaway was when she said “You have to be your biggest cheerleader, advocator and protector, even if you have representation.” We need to be proactive with our careers and stand up for ourselves and I thank you, Jen, for reminding us of that!

Victoria Stevens
vickiestevens1@verizon.net

I loved how down to earth Jennifer was. I didn't get to stay the whole time but what resonated with me was how honest she was. I liked that she said to have other things to do besides acting. It is the truth! We all need to have some reset moments in this career.

Thomas M. Harding
Thomas.M.Harding.actor@gmail.com

My great takeaway was, “take chances and create opportunities or you’ll never know what’s on the other side”. Fortune favors the bold!

Kim Cassandra
kwoodslc@gmail.com

There were a few things that stood out to me that Jennifer touched on. She stated that it is important if you don't "connect" with a role, don't take it on, because you run the risk of not doing it justice. She also stated that it's important we don't just do one thing; also produce, write, cast, etc. It was interesting to me that she said she prefers casting for indie films because they are very much a "process" and she likes this aspect as she can work more closely with directors. I particularly liked that she said she casts the "best person for a part", not necessarily her friend. It was an absolute joy to spend time speaking with her.