

Casting Director Notes

Rebecca Yarsin- House Casting

Background

- Misses the energy that everyone brings into the room
- 17 years at house casting and prior to that in theatrical stage acting casting
- Never an actor. Wanted to help people follow their creative adventures
- Went to school for stage management
- Had a job at New York Theatre workshop out of college
- Bartender for a long time.
- Got a chance at a stage reading and went south
- Wanted a show that filled her soul
- Quit and got into Casting

Tips

- Respects people that can say no to certain projects
- The best gift to give yourself is love what you do everyday
- You have to constantly be filling your well

What's the greatest value in casting workshops?

- It's about getting those connections
- Get as much information as you can from the associate who checks you in
- The more your on their radar the more they will bring you in

Why do casting directors ask questions?

- It throws you off so you have to answer it as a human being
- Trying to see if your a good individual to work with
- Talk about what your passionate about and what made you want to become an actor instead of just saying acting
- Don't say what you think you should be. Be authentic. Be yourself
- Bring life to the audition

What are things you notice when you walk in the door?

- If you change from what you were doing in the waiting room to when you walk in the audition room
- If you're not listening to the CD. Understand that she's got your back

How do you handle when someone bombs in an audition?

- Tries to not let you know that you didn't do well
- If im shes on the fence after the 2nd time she may give you a 3rd time

When a script is given a day ahead of time how critical is it to be off book?

- No definitive answer
- For callbacks should be really prepared
- Full memorization gets in the way of being available to change
- Know what the director or writer is really trying to sell

Find the genius in the script

- Don't think about the brand
- Don't think about how the product solves your problem
- Look at the copy and look for the moments the writer thought they were being smart

- It's not your job to sell the product
- Tell your version of the story and that bring you to life
- The State Farm guy got the role from being different

Self Tapes

- A lot of people think they're clever such as with particular backgrounds
- Bring life to the tape with your acting
- Have clean background, good audio and good natural lighting
- Do two takes of the scene all the time
- Send a messy one and don't aim for perfection.
- A casting director can ask the client which take they want

If you're an actor and you have 500 dollars. What is the best thing to invest in right now?

- Spend it on casting websites. Have headshot, resume and other materials up to date
- having your own website.
- Acting Classes

An audition is just a playdate and you just want to get invited back

- It's all about personal connection and keeping in touch
- It opens an email invite
- Spend money on a casting director workshop so you can get the emails.

What's the frequency of Staying in Touch?

- Have something to say and make sure there's something personal and professional

Skype tape vs self tape

- Bring your A game to the skype audition

What types of classes should you be in?

- Casting directors are the gatekeeper
- Be targeted in your classes

Is it possible to overemphasize how small this industry is?

- Yes it is and it sticks with you
- Treat everyone kindly because you never know who they are or who they might become in the future
- It's all about your connections and community
- Surround yourself with good people