

Auditioning workshop 104 © Nils Osmar 2016

LONG DISTANCE AUDITIONING: FILMING YOUR OWN AUDITION ©

Some companies holding auditions may ask you to **film your own audition, upload it to Youtube, and send the director a link**. This saves you a trip in to audition.

PROS OF FILMED AUDITIONS:

1. You'll have ample time to study the sides, study the script, and make some choices that are more likely to get you cast.
2. You don't have to worry about being nervous, because you can redo a filmed audition till it's flawless.
4. You don't have to travel to meet someone, or miss work. You can film the audition whenever you want. (You can easily audition for productions anywhere in the country.)

CONS OF FILMED AUDITIONS:

1. You'll likely be competing against a much larger number of other actors than you would be in an in-person audition.
2. The directors know that you've had ample time to work on it. So the standard is much higher. If you stumble over your lines, you'll look incompetent because you didn't take the time to fix them.
3. You don't meet the auditors, so you don't have a chance to win them over with your charming personality.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Your video should start with a slate, a black backdrop with plain, easy to read lettering on it, stating your name and the name of the part you're auditioning for. (It should also include your contact information)
2. Some actors also do an AUDIO SLATE with the same information. You can do the audio slate yourself or ask a member of the opposite sex with a pleasant speaking voice to say it. (Such as a woman's voice saying, "Michael Lang reading for the part of Joe," or a man's voice saying, "Karen Maguire reading for the part of Mary.")
3. If sending in a DVD with a movie file on it, include your name and the title of the movie when naming the DVD. For example: "JANE FLEMING auditioning for the role of Maggie. June 2015." Use the same name for the movie file itself.

WHAT TO FILM

1. Most filmed auditions work best as CLOSEUPS framing you from your collarbone to the top of your head. This lets the director see your face, eyes and expression clearly. There's no need to film your body below the collar.
2. If possible, have the film shot and edited professionally, using a high quality, high definition camcorder or DSLR and professional, high quality microphone placed close to the actor. (Don't use the cheap microphone built into camera phone.) Make sure your camera or camcorder is designed to take closeups. (Do not use a GoPro camcorder designed for wide panoramic shots)
3. Perform the audition while SEATED, to control your range of motion. (The chair back should not be visible, so they won't know you're sitting.) Remember, it's a closeup. Any motion will be heightened and exaggerated. Leaning back or forward can put you out of focus, and shifting or leaning to the side can move you offscreen.
4. When filming an audition, you should be the only person onscreen. If you're talking to other characters in the script, interacting with them, we should be able to hear their voices (offscreen), but should not see them.
5. Even if your character is a crazy serial killer about to chop up the person they're screaming at, let most of your energy be internal, not external. Don't let your character's emotions translate into a lot of physical gyrations that could take you out of range of the camera.
6. Memorize your lines and treat the filmed audition as a real performance. Don't record yourself reading the lines off of a screen. It can take hours to prepare properly for the audition, including the memorization and practice.
7. Stay true to the words in the script (don't improvise). If you screw up any words, re-film it.
8. Don't add fancy visual effects or dramatic music behind your voice. You're showing what you can do as an actor, not a designer or filmmaker.
9. It's a good idea to dress in the direction of your character (to make it easier for the director to see you in the role), but don't get carried away. They're not hiring you as a costume designer.
11. As in anything you record, the audio quality is crucial. Your voice should be clearly audible, but not loud enough to distort.
12. As in any audition, it's fine to dress in the direction of the character. If the character is a man or woman in a business suit, wear a business suit.