



How to Record your Audition

- Either prop up the phone or get someone else to shoot the audition. Portrait or landscape, it's up to you.
- Frame it as chest-up unless there is some wider body language you want to show
- Have a plain background behind you
- You can shoot it as one continuous take – doesn't matter if you have to stop and start or look at the prompts. You can also repeat the prompt again if you want, before moving on.
- MOST IMPORTANTLY – IDENTIFY YOURSELF AT THE FRONT OF THE VIDEO – How can your genius be acknowledged if we don't know who you are! Also share your pronouns if you would like.
- Pause 3–4 seconds between prompts
- Identify the number of the prompt you are doing
- Although I won't be using audio, feel free to speak any dialogue or make any noise that helps you deliver that specific emotional mood.
- Just have fun with it. No one expects a perfect video without mistakes, gaps, good bits, bad bits.

PART I – BASELINE CONTROL

1. Neutral Baseline

Look directly at camera. Relaxed face. Natural breathing. 5 seconds.

2. Thoughtful / Internal Processing

You're thinking through something serious but not emotional yet.

3. Guarded

You are hiding what you feel. Micro tension around the mouth.

PART II – SUBTLE SHIFTS

4. Suspicion → Realization

Start mildly suspicious. Let a slow realization land.

5. Calm → Unease

You sense something is wrong but don't know what.

6. Relief → Doubt

You think you're safe. Then something feels off.

PART III – INTENSITY

7. Shock

A sudden discovery. Let it land physically.

8. Contained Anger

You are furious but must not explode.

9. Fear You Refuse to Show

Fear is present — but you suppress it.

10. Betrayal

Someone you trusted has just betrayed you.

PART IV – STRONG EMOTIONAL BEATS

11. Rage

You cannot contain it. Breath sharpens. Jaw tightens.

12. Grief

You are trying not to cry — and failing.

13. Desperate Plea

You are begging someone to stop.
You may say one word softly: “Wait.”

14. Protective Instinct

Someone you love is in danger.

15. Power Activation (Burning-specific)

You feel something supernatural rising inside you.
Start grounded → feel energy → controlled release.

PART V – CONTROLLED SPEECH**16. Whispered Line**

Whisper: “You don’t understand.”

17. Controlled Warning

Say quietly: “Don’t.”

18. Emotional Crack

Say softly: “Please.”

How to Submit your Audition

Make sure that you have identified yourself at the beginning of your audition!

Here is the Uplink: <https://spaces.hightail.com/uplink/ErikTalkin>

Any problems, just email or text me. Life is just one tech problem after another.

The next Stage after Audition

If I think you are suitable for a specific role – I'll ask you to record and resubmit some exercises focused on actual situations in the book for that character or characters (if you are being considered for more than one).

Assessing how different characters would work together – Some of the major characters operate in tighter groups, and so I might need to see how two or more characters would work together. In that situation, I would meet up with a couple of you and work through a few short scenes to get a feel of how you could work together.

Getting a Part – Once you are offered a part, I would ask you to sign a simple letter of agreement allowing me the rights to use your image for any aspect of the BURNING project, in exchange for the payment for your work. Use of your image would only pertain to this project. Your image would not be used in other projects or to train Ai for any other purposes

What if I don't get a part - Showing up is half the secret of success, so even if you don't get one of the listed roles, everyone who auditions will appear in the book as a background character at some point. It might just be an hour's work, but your immortality in print is guaranteed!

Questions to Erik Talkin at etalkin@me.com