

Quick Tips for Self-Tape Auditions

Submitting your audition tape can feel daunting but with the right techniques you can present yourself confidently. Here are some basic tips to help you create a polished audition video using just your phone.

Choose the Right Environment

- **LIGHTING:**
Find a well-lit area to record your tape. Natural light is best, so position yourself facing a window. If indoors, avoid harsh overhead lights that create shadows.
- **BACKGROUND:**
Use a clean and uncluttered background. A plain wall or a tidy room works well. Make sure nothing distracting is visible behind you.

Set Up Your Equipment

- **PHONE POSITION:**
Use a tripod or a stable surface to keep your phone steady. The camera should be at eye level; avoid recording from above or below to ensure a flattering angle.
- **FILM VERTICALLY:**
It's best to film vertically as this mimics the framing used by professional film cameras. This orientation not only enhances the visual experience but also aligns with how your performance will be presented in a film or casting context.
- **AUDIO QUALITY:**
Good sound is crucial. Ensure your recording space is quiet.

Framing Your Shot

- Center yourself in the frame. Aim for a medium close-up shot, showing your head and shoulders. This allows for a more intimate connection with your audience.
- Don't forget about the "headroom". Leave a little space above your head and ensure you're not too close to the camera.

Preparation for the Scene

- Introduce yourself and state what role you are submitting for before you start your audition.
- **READ OFF-CAMERA:**
Have someone read the lines for you. This makes it feel more natural and conversational. If you don't have someone available, you can read off-screen by placing the script near the camera.
- **KNOW YOUR MATERIAL:**
Familiarize yourself with the lines and the character. Practice a few times before recording and try to perform it as if you're in a live audition.

Performance Tips

- **STAY AUTHENTIC:**
Remember that casting directors want to see genuine emotion and engagement.
- **USE YOUR BODY:**
Utilize facial expressions and body language to convey the character's emotions. Stand or sit comfortably, but don't be too stiff.

Editing (If needed)

- **ONE TAKE:**
Aim to deliver your audition in one steady take. This not only showcases your ability to perform seamlessly but also demonstrates confidence and preparedness. These are qualities that casting directors look for in actors.
- **KEEP IT CLEAN:**
If editing is needed, no fancy transitions or effects are necessary.

Keep It Short

Aim for a duration of 1-2 minutes. Casting directors appreciate concise performances that get right to the point.

Follow Submission Guidelines

Read and adhere to any specific submission instructions provided. Ensure you name your file appropriately and include any extra materials requested.

Conclusion

Creating an audition tape doesn't have to be overwhelming! By following these tips, you can produce a clear and engaging video that showcases your talent. Remember to relax and have fun. Good luck!