

Audition Self-Tape Tips

Introduction

We are looking forward to the opportunity to see your work, but before we do, we'd like to share with you some tips to help you have a successful and—hopefully—stress-free experience.

Before I get into the specifics, I want to first tell you this: at the end of the day, this is an opportunity for us to get to know you as an actor, as an artist and as a human. It's not about putting together the most polished, perfectly-crafted cinematic masterpiece. It's about sharing your talent, your passion and your approach to the work. We will happily accept your self-tape in any way you can get it to us.

That being said, we do have some simple tips that we think will help you along the way...

Self-Tape Tips

1. What camera should I use?
 - a. Your phone is usually the best video camera out there. We recommend that you take advantage of its ease and wonderful quality.
2. What should my backdrop be?
 - a. Try to use a solid wall without too many distractions. If you have to take down a few pictures or move some furniture, then I suggest a little remodel. It can always go back when you finish.
3. How do I need to light myself?
 - a. If you have direct sunlight, that's fantastic and usually the best. Just make sure it's facing you and not behind you.
 - b. If you need to add lights, there are a couple options
 - i. Ring lights are great and easy to use. Some even come with a handy phone clip.
 - ii. A lamp can be used—just remove the lampshade and set it in front of you. You might try placing it on a table so it's about eye level. Experiment with the placement.
 - c. Keep it simple. Remember, we just want to be able to see your face
4. Where should I put my camera?
 - a. If possible, I recommend investing in a tripod—something that can get the device to eye level when you are standing.
 - i. Think about your needs and your space. It doesn't have to be a traditional tripod, especially if you are using your phone as a camera. Some tripods have flexible legs that you can attach to things, and others double as selfie sticks; many have Bluetooth remotes.

- b. If you don't have a tripod, no worries! Here are some things you can use to prop up your phone or bring it to eye level:
 - i. A ladder
 - ii. Stacked books or boxes
 - iii. Painter's tape can be your friend!
 - iv. You can have someone hold the camera for you, but make sure they have a steady hand.
- 5. How do I frame the shot?
 - a. Turn your phone horizontal when you record—this looks best on our end when we are watching back!
 - b. Try to frame your shot from your waist or chest level to the top of your head, and make sure that we will still see you if you move.
- 6. How do I introduce myself?
 - a. Make sure you "slate!" A slate is, "Hi, my name is _____, and today I'll be doing _____." Make sure you share the title and playwright, or the song and the composer.
- 7. What about sound?
 - a. If you'll be singing, you don't need to go out and purchase an expensive microphone or go about editing together sound and video. If you can, great!
 - b. It's best that your accompaniment is played through a speaker that you can move.
 - i. Try placing the speaker closer to you instead of the camera.
 - ii. You may need to play with the placement of the speaker to get the right balance for you and the recording. Give yourself time to experiment.
- 8. Anything else?
 - a. Yes, one last thing. We LOVE your pets, and we hope to meet them someday, but not during your audition.

We hope these tips help in some way. Remember, you are auditioning to share your acting and singing skills—not your filmmaking skills! Have fun, and we can't wait to see your work.

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