

IMPROVISATION AUDITION ACTIVITY

Activity Directions: Follow the Improvisation Audition Casting Call below. Be sure and practice your filming set-up for a mock-online submission! This audition requires a friend or family member to help you :)

WHAT the Casting Call wants:

- For this audition, you will need a partner to give the “scene suggestions,” and host the Improvisation Games (they are encouraged to play along with you, but make sure that *you* are in the frame of the self-tape audition).
- Please submit a self-tape audition using the Improvisation Games. (*Your “submission” will just be commenting your improvisation audition onto the “LESSON 5 | Improvisation Auditions” topic, where you can receive peer-review!*)
- Before your audition, please “slate” your name, the role you are auditioning for, and if you are represented by an agency or self-represented
- Have your host ensure your entire audition is no more than 5 minutes in duration. 2-3 minutes is preferable.

THE GAMES

Game 1 “Scenes from a Hat”: Have a friend write down 3-5 “scene suggestions” on pieces of paper (such as, “Brother went missing,” “tuna-melt sandwich,” or “a shark that ate too much,” or something even more simple like, “banana”) and place them in a hat (or anything from which you can blindly draw). Select one of the papers. Slate your name, if you are represented by any agency (or self-represented), and then read the paper, “My scene suggestion is_____.” Perform the first “scene” (your partner is encouraged to play along with you, preferably as a “reader” behind the camera). Remember, you should be *inspired* by the scene suggestion, but your scene does not have to be *about* the suggestion.

Game 2: This is a “silent scene.” The casting director wants to know how well you perform “environment work.” Environment work is the ability to pantomime correctly, and create the scene out of thin-air. Your only job in this scene is to enter the frame by opening an imaginary door, and then stepping in *just as you would sneak into a sibling’s room*. Then, find that “thing you are looking for.” Pantomime your interaction with that “thing,” and keep it with you while you exit the room.

WHAT to Remember:

- YES, AND! Take anything happening, and anything coming to mind as truth. Don't negate yourself!
- Make sure to stay in frame during filming. It is easy to wander out of frame when in the moment!
- Don't forget, silence for effect is fine, as long as you're always emoting!
- Environment work can be hard! THIS AUDITION TIP: When opening "the door," remember that a door knob has substance. Many actors accidentally "grab the door knob" with a closed fist, basically obliterating this imaginary door knob in their grasp! Also, remember what direction you opened the door and if you closed it on the way in... when actors "leave a room" they more often than not they open the door the wrong way, *or just walk through a closed door!* These are just a few tips to get you started.
- Follow the directions of the casting call!
- Don't forget to "submit" your audition! Your "submission" will just be commenting your improvisation audition onto the "LESSON 5 | Improvisation Auditions" topic, where you can receive peer-review!