

Guide

to a Successful Self-Tape Audition:

Tips

for Actors and Readers



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Introduction

In the digital age, self-tape auditions have become a mainstay in the casting process. Whether you're an actor showcasing your talent or a reader assisting in the process, ensuring a top-quality self-tape is crucial. This guide provides comprehensive advice for both actors and readers to make the audition stand out.



for the Actors

● Choose the Right Location

- Opt for a quiet space with good acoustics.
- Use a neutral background to minimise distractions.
- Ensure the area is well-lit, preferably with natural light.

● Camera and Sound Setup

- Position the camera at eye level.
- Use a tripod or stable surface to prevent shaky footage.
- Frame from the chest up, unless specified otherwise.
- Use an external microphone for clear audio, and test sound levels before recording.

● Dress the Part

- Wear solid colours that contrast with your background.
- Avoid logos or overly flashy clothing.
- Dress as the character if appropriate, but avoid overdoing it.

● Performance Preparation

- Fully memorise your lines.
- Practise your performance multiple times to ensure authenticity and confidence.
- Keep the script nearby as a reference, but don't overly rely on it.

● The Slate

- Begin with a full shot (from head to toe).
- Introduce yourself with a smile: name, agency (if applicable), and role you're auditioning for.
- Follow any specific instructions provided by the casting director, such as stating your location or height.
- Offer profile views by turning left and then right.
- Conclude with gratitude.

● Review and Send

- Watch your self-tape multiple times to check for any issues.
- Save the video in a commonly accepted format like .mp4.
- Name the file professionally, typically using your name and the role (e.g., "JaneDoe_RoleName_SelfTape.mp4").
- Send promptly using a reliable file-sharing service if the file is large.

For the Reader

(often a parent or friend assisting):

- **Understand the Script**

- Familiarise yourself with the scene's context to provide appropriate cues and reactions.

- **Stay Off-Camera, But Be Present**

- Position yourself near the camera to ensure clear audio, but remain out of the frame.

- **Maintain eye contact and engagement with the actor.**

- Maintain a Neutral Tone
- Keep your reading consistent and neutral, allowing the actor's performance to shine.

- **Pacing is Key**

- Match the scene's energy and rhythm, ensuring a consistent pace.

- **Limit Distractions**

- Avoid unnecessary movements or noises that could detract from the actor's performance.

- **Practise Makes Perfect**

- Rehearse the scene with the actor before recording, addressing any uncertainties or issues.

- **Be Encouraging and Supportive**

- Offer positive feedback, especially when working with young actors. Patience is essential.

- **Avoid Mid-Take Coaching**

- Save feedback or suggestions for after the take to maintain the actor's focus.

- **Maintain Consistent Energy**

- If multiple takes are needed, ensure your energy remains consistent throughout.

- **Adaptability**

- Be prepared to adjust based on the actor's needs or if the scene requires a change in tone.

Conclusion

A successful self-tape audition is a collaborative effort between the actor and the reader. By understanding your roles, preparing adequately, and focusing on delivering a genuine performance, you can create a memorable audition that leaves a lasting impression on casting directors.

