

FST Guidelines and Tips for Successful Video Submissions

Whenever possible, we save you the time and expense of traveling to first round auditions by submitting a taped audition. Many roles are cast directly off of tape so it is important for talent to submit high quality taped auditions. We need to SEE and HEAR the actor well in order to FEEL the truth in their performance. Please follow the instructions below when taping your auditions.

1. WARDROBE: Avoid wearing logos or busy patterns on clothing. Bright solid colors work best. Costumes should not be used. When in doubt, choose simple neutral clothing that shows your body type.

2. LIGHTING: Lighting must be good enough to see the color of the actor's eyes. Don't rely on overhead fluorescent lights they tend to distort color. You can make it work with overhead lights; but be aware that overhead lights create deep shadows on your face which can make you look older or change your appearance completely. Ideally, use two incandescent lights (bulbs with filaments). One as a key light, set off the side of the camera and pointed at your face, and one as a fill light, set to the opposite side of the camera a little farther away and pointed at your side. Be careful to not over-light as you could become washed-out.

3. BACKGROUND: Film your audition in front of a well-lit, **neutral** background. Do not film outdoors. Ideally, you should perform in front of a solid colored curtain or backdrop. A good second option is to find a blank wall. Too much clutter in the background can distract from your performance. Also, make sure that you wear a color that neither blends into, nor contrasts with the color of your backdrop.

4. SOUND: Turn off phones, radios, fans, AC units and loud appliances. Close windows to reduce unwanted noise like traffic, neighbors, or pets. We do not want anything to take attention away from your audition. Invest in a good quality microphone.

5. CAMERA & MODE: Film with a HD camera - 1080p with a tripod. Some smart phones record in HD 1080p. If this is the only option you can use, film in

landscape mode w/ tripod or something to keep it stable. Ideally, get a camera that fits your budget and have a friend operate it for you.

6. FRAMING: The best framing is from the waist up. If playing an instrument, make sure the whole instrument is in frame. We really want to see the actor's eyes -where the truth of the role lies. For most taped auditions, you should stand to keep your energy up.

7. CAMERA DIRECTION: When recording the audition, the actor should look directly into the camera lens. (Unlike film auditions.)

8. SLATE: Actors should slate at the BEGINNING of their audition, The actor must slate with their name, role and height; then pull the camera back for a full body shot. Also, if the actor goes from their slate straight into the performance, they should pause for a few seconds between each to allow some separation. Let the audition play out in its entirety. Do not cut the video as soon as the last line is out of the actor's mouth. Feel free to add a text slate to your audition.

10. FORMAT AND DELIVERY: Files must be in in either mov, wmp, or mp4 format. Whenever possible keep the file size 50 MB to allow faster download. Name your audition as follows unless otherwise specified:

ActorsFirstName.ActorsLastName.CharacterName.FST.extension

Do not upload any audition videos to any public site for any reason. Confidentiality is taken very seriously. Send us your audition file(s) using a free service such as www.hightail.com.