

# ACTORS TOP TIPS



**To Win Those Amazing  
Roles!**

## Actors Top Tips For Gaining More Work:

Want to become an actor, but don't know where to begin? Or perhaps you're in the industry and are trying to get more work. We've created a comprehensive guide for you, based on our relationship with some of Australia's best agencies and our years of experience helping actors achieve their goals.

This is a journey and it may not be so easy. To be truly successful like any career, you have to commit to the process 110%. There are other people out there after the same prize as you. They might not be as talented, but if they are more committed and focused on what they need to achieve. They will stand a far better chance. Many paths exist to becoming an actor, but most importantly the desire has to be strong. Going to University or a Drama school is great for solid theory and developing your craft and style. There are also short courses, masterclass, workshops and private acting coaches in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne where you can hone your skills and range as an actor or performer. It's also a great idea to get involved with a network of actors and look for side projects like small indie film productions and local theatre. Get in touch with student productions/universities/film schools. Offer your services as experience is the best way to learn. Valuable bonds are created in these earlier years between you and other upcoming industry professionals.

If you're just starting out, or stuck in a rut. Make a mind map of where you want to be. Visualise how you think you'll get there and what you think you'll have to do to make it happen. By taking this first step you are creating new neural pathways for your journey and motivation for your career. Remember to plan and set smaller goals. A focused plan to get where you want to in your career is 10x more likely to get the kind of acting gigs you want - If you fail to plan then you plan to fail! A great tool in helping you market yourself is utilising one of the many online talent sites. These give you an online stage to share more information about yourself directly with potential creatives, bookers and casting agents through these highly optimised and searched sites. It also shows potential clients that you have incentive, drive and talent. We strongly suggest having a profile on one of them [www.starnow.com](http://www.starnow.com)  
[www.at2casting.com/AU/home/online-casting-system](http://www.at2casting.com/AU/home/online-casting-system)  
<http://www.showcast.com.au>

Please be aware that 3 of these sites are subscription based. But hey, a \$10k TVC job or Netflix season is something that these sites could possibly deliver and we have seen it happen a number of times before!

A fantastic resource is StageMilk <https://www.stagemilk.com> it's an amazing site full of helpful information.

## **Selling Yourself**

At some stage in your career you are going to find that representation by way of a talent management agency. It's a great way of having someone in your corner watching out for you. But don't expect them to do all the work! You need to remain proactive, keep researching upcoming productions and new roles yourself. Making sure you update and contact your agent/booker regularly. As we discussed earlier, the hungrier talent will win every time by being in the hearts and minds of their agent!

Your best assets are your talent, tenacity, headshot and self/tape or showreel. Your actors headshots must be current. You cannot turn up at a casting not looking like your headshot. You should strive to make sure your headshot is also memorable. Casting agents will be flipping through hundreds if not thousands of images, so it's important to catch their eye somehow. Something special in your eyes is a very important trait and this can only be captured by talented headshot photographers with great direction and execution. We see photographers shooting the same old tired headshots all the time, offering cheap rates and poor skills. This is such a great disappointment and missed opportunity for that first impression with your actors headshot. It has to stand out!

The next step in your actor's journey is to utilise video to sell your self and tell your story. An actors self tape is the perfect platform, if you have a limited budget perhaps try a Uni film grad and record a 2 to 3 minute sequence with you talking to the camera at eye level telling your potential audience who you are, why you love your craft and anything that makes you special ie. I can ride a horse, speak french, do impersonations... We need to stress, It is important to have reasonably good sound quality for your video but something is always better than nothing for starters. If your self taping for an audition limit it to 3 takes a scene and keep it spontaneous. We know actors who have booked film, Television and theatre work by simply by sending through a few basic self tapes.

If your budget extends a bit further consider a professional for your self tape video and it will always result in more calls for a casting or meet and greet. Once you start getting parts in stage productions, short films and TVC's that's when getting a true actor's showreel becomes a reality. It's a compilation of your work like a video resume. Just make sure you chase up and get that footage asap from the source of each project you participate in and keep multiple copies in different places just in-case.

## Preparing for that Part

There are night classes and smaller group courses to get your head in the game - It gives you the essential training and self-awareness of your abilities while honing your acting skills and lifting your confidence. It's a great starting point prior to stepping into the spotlight.

There is an intrinsic see-saw nature in the entertainment industry. You want to express and create opportunities but self doubt often creeps in. Mental health is as important as physical health and the 2 are inextricably woven.

Make sure you take time to do some yoga or running or whatever brings back balance and keep the blues at bay. We tend to spend so much time thinking on our feet in this busy post COVID world. it's great to decompress, reset and have some fun!

Get in touch with student productions/universities/film schools, offer your services and get experience it's the best way to learn and form lasting friendships and alliances with upcoming industry professionals. If you work with them once they are likely to ask you to work with them again and it's a great way to build up your showreel!

Film yourself on your iphone and watch the footage, study yourself - get to know yourself on film

Also the way you sound is so important - work on your voice and study the techniques of creating accents from youtube videos. An American accent is perhaps the most useful in our current situation with the multitude of US production companies currently in Australia at the moment..

Auditions are the time to shine, acting is recreating life in a moment through feeling and doing. Don't go in to an audition over-focused, take it into perspective, don't take yourself too seriously and have a good time, talk to people to stay calm if they want to chat and try to be centred in the process.

Analyse the script - look for clues - decode who this person is that you're going to bring to life in the audition.

You're not going in to show off the script - you're going in to show what's valuable about you in the part.

The more confident you are in yourself, the more you can become the best choice in your audition.

## Finally Our Top Tips

1 - Research your role, the Director and the history behind the production first before attending a casting call. Sometimes being able to answer a question with an informed answer can be the win.

2 - Set up your finances before you start your acting career - Look at passive and residual income that allows you to spend as much time as possible on your acting career

3 - Know the industry - study its structure, gain insight into upcoming opportunities by joining groups and creating google alerts around terms like “upcoming Netflix productions in Australia” and become an expert

4 - Know yourself - what is special about you - how will you stand out from the sea of actors

5 - Classes, training and acting peer groups - it's not just about support from your family and friends - professional support can be the most understanding and beneficial for your craft.

6 - Know your type! what you are and where you fit. By understanding your type or potential types your far more likely to find that perfect role. This applies when creating your headshots, monologue reel and resume - target your archetype/s and the rest will follow.

7 - Business skills as a freelance professional. You're the product to sell. You need to know your customers (casting directors, agents) what are they looking for?

8 - Don't think your agent will do all the work - work together. If you hear of a project, don't assume your agent knows about it as well. Often casting professionals use one or more agencies nationally for a project. Your agent can throw your hat into the ring if they are aware of the upcoming production.

9 - Be motivated -stay motivated, play the long game and put in the hard work - this could take just a matter of months or many years. But motivation and a positive attitude will win every time.

10 - Plan and set goals - a focused plan will get where you want to be - You're 10x more likely to get the kind of acting career you want - If you fail to plan then you plan to fail.

We hope this was a little help with where you are in your journey. It's a general overview and was written to cover everything from someone stepping up for the first time for extras work to newer or working actors after some ideas, inspiration or direction.

Coming from a family of actors. I have personally seen euphoric career highs, like landing a lead in a big production. To that failed audition you knew you nailed and everything in-between.

Seeing an unwavering passion for the business and the ability to rise to the occasion was so inspirational and a big take away for my own career. By not letting a refusal get you down for long and moving on is perhaps where greatness and magic truly happens for actors.

I wish you every success following your dream!



**Paul Sargaison**  
**Photographer at *Brisbane Headshots***  
<http://brisbaneheadshots.com.au>

