

From the book

'MADE FOR HOLLYWOOD: AN ACTORS BEGINNER MANUAL' by Dom Campbell

Dos and Don'ts for Audition Preparation

(THIS APPLY FOR SELF TAPES & CALLBACKS WHEN A CASTING TEAM IS PRESENT)

[Dos]

1. **Test Your Technology:** Before the audition, check your camera, microphone, and internet connection to ensure everything works smoothly.
2. **Choose a Suitable Location:** Select a quiet, well-lit area with a neutral background to minimize distractions and keep the focus on you.
3. **Dress Professionally:** Wear clothing that reflects the character you're auditioning for, while also appearing polished and professional.
4. **Follow Submission Guidelines:** Carefully read and adhere to all instructions regarding video length, format, and file naming conventions.
5. **Engage with Your Scene Partner:** If performing with someone else, ensure you maintain appropriate eye contact and engage as if you were in person.
6. **Use Good Lighting:** Ensure your face is well lit, avoiding harsh shadows that can obscure your expressions.
7. **Prepare Just Like an In-Person Audition:** Treat your online audition with the same level of seriousness as an in-person audition by rehearsing thoroughly.
8. **Keep Your Energy Up:** Project your energy and emotions to convey your character effectively through the screen.
9. **Be Adaptable:** Be prepared to adjust your performance based on any directions provided by the casting team during the audition.
10. **Follow Up Professionally:** Send a thank-you email after your audition to express appreciation for the opportunity.

[Don'ts]

1. **Don't Ignore the Environment:** Avoid noisy or visually distracting areas; make sure your location is conducive to a professional audition.
2. **Don't Use Poor Quality Equipment:** Avoid using low-quality cameras or microphones; invest in decent gear for clearer audio and video.
3. **Don't Rely Solely on Editing:** Make sure your performance is solid on the first take; excessive reliance on editing can compromise authenticity.
4. **Don't Speak Too Softly or Mumble:** Ensure you speak clearly and at an appropriate volume, projecting your voice for the camera.
5. **Don't Overdo Performance Choices:** While it's important to convey emotion, avoid exaggerated gestures and expressions that may not translate well on screen.
6. **Don't Forget to Check Your Appearance:** Avoid outfits with distracting patterns and ensure your grooming is consistent with the character.
7. **Don't Neglect Eye Contact:** Avoid looking directly at the camera unless instructed to; focus on engaging with your imaginary scene partner.
8. **Don't Cut Off Your Performance:** Be careful with your timing; don't end your tape abruptly; leave a moment of silence after your last line.
9. **Don't Be Late:** Submit your audition on time and ensure all technical aspects are sorted well in advance to avoid last-minute issues.
10. **Don't Be Negative About Feedback:** If you receive criticism or suggestions, approach it with an open mind and use it as a growth opportunity.