

# CASTING FOR DIRECTORS

## PRE-PRODUCTION FILM/MEDIA

TEXT: CASTING REVEALED: A Guide for Film Directors by Hester Schell ISBN: 978-1-932907-87-2

**COURSE OBJECTIVE:** Achieve confidence and competency with entertainment industry standards and practices for casting procedures, audition protocol and work-flow; improve communication skills with performers; develop understanding and appreciation of the craft of acting and the function of casting procedures; develop skills necessary to run successful auditions. Ideally, this course is to be completed prior to beginning the production phase of student projects.

**RECOMMENDED MATERIALS:** Laptop with high speed Internet, e-Mail, Excel, photo and media/clip viewer, e.g.: Quick Time

- Week 1: Introductions to concepts and vocabulary. Definitions.  
 “Casting better actors makes better movies.”  
 Chapters 1 & 2 - Do It Yourself; Your Directing Career  
 Market share & Your long-term directing career. Researching online statistics.
- Week 2: Pre-Production planning before casting can begin: breakdown elements.  
 Chapter 3 - Overview of the Casting Process
- Week 3: Headshots, Resumes, Demo. Reels - Professional actors have professional marketing materials. Internet viewing, profile footage and demo. Reels.  
 Chapter 4 - Industry Standards
- Week 4: Acting defined: How do you know great acting when you see it.  
 Chapter 5 - Acting, What is it?
- Week 5: Timelines: Scheduling Appointments.  
 Completion & distribution of breakdown announcement  
 Agents vs. Casting Directors  
 Chapters 6 & 7 - Timelines & Casting Breakdown.
- Week 6: Paper flow and organizational charts, data, folders and files.  
 Running the sessions, recording the sessions.  
 Chapter 8 & 9 - Staying Organized & The First Round
- Week 7: Decisions, sessions, footage reviews
- Week 8: Audition Call Backs  
 Chapter 10 - The Second Round
- Week 9: The Offer: Contracts, SAG, AFTRA, Non-union  
 Chapter 11 - Offers and Contracts  
 Invited guest: producer or union rep.
- Week 10: Scheduling rehearsals, completing contracts and agreements  
 Contracts and Contacts to Production Management.  
 Invited guest: Agent
- Week 11: Wrap up - Chapters 12, 13, 14  
 Invited guest: Casting Director
- Week 12 - 15: Project completion, screenings, and final exams.

✓ BONUS ASSIGNMENTS

1) Research casting on a hit movie o TV series. Who was the CD? What else has this CD cast? What media stories surround the casting on this project? Who else was up for the role? Do you agree/ disagree with the choices? What awards were won?

2) Prepare critical analysis of Emmy or Oscar nominees and winners. Support your thesis. Use Internet to share clips.