CASTING FOR DIRECTORS

PRE-PRODUCTION FILM/MEDIA

TEXT: CASTING REVEALED: A Guide for Film Directors by Hester Schell

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 or 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.