Acting – Lesson 1

Creating a Self-Tape for Video Auditions with Nik Whitcomb

What You Need:

1) **Camera**: This can be a cellphone, a laptop, or anything else you can record on.

2) **Camera Stand**: This can be a tripod or a stack of books. Be creative and stay flexible!

3) **Lights**: You can get a ring light, use a lamp, or record during the day by a window!

What the Casting Director is Looking For:

Can I See You?
Is your camera set up at a good angle?
Are you well lit?
Is your background clear of "noise"?

Can I Hear You?
Did you do a test recording to make sure we can hear you?

Did You Follow Directions?
Read and re-read instructions so you don't take yourself out of the running!

Do I Want To See You Again?
Did you show me personality?
Did you make bold character choices?

Nik's Pro Tips:

Have fun!
- Acting is fun. Telling stories is fun! Make sure you don't forget that even when creating a self-tape for a video audition.

Try not to record the tape more than five times
- Do not try over and over for perfection. And when in doubt, choose the one that you like the beginning of more. A strong start goes a long way!

Don't sweat the small stuff
- Do not beat yourself up over the small things! Mistakes happen and as long as you stay in it and tell the story, you won't get counted out for a word or two.

Don't forget to show personality
- Remember that we hire PEOPLE to play characters. Make sure you show me a bit of who you are in your tape.

Have fun!
- I CANNOT STRESS THIS ENOUGH. It is a genuine joy to be able to do this work! Keep that smile on and give it your best shot.

Make Your Own Audition Video:

Now it's your chance to make a tape! Choose a monologue you already know, a scene you have been working on in class, or your favorite scene from a movie, play, or tv show and try it out. Once you are done, send your tape to your teacher so they can give you some feedback.