



BOOKITTALENT
TORONTO | VANCOUVER | KELOWNA

BOOKITTALENT.COM

AN ACTORS GUIDE TO BECOMING ONE WHO **BOOKS IT**

LEARN THE BASICS.

SET YOUR GOALS.

AND BOOK IT.



Getting Started

So, you want to be an actor?

Guess what? **You already are!** Every great actor starts with the mindset that they are an actor, not just that they want to "*become one*." Starting with this attitude will set you apart from the rest. Why? Because you've already made the mental commitment to follow through on all the steps that professional actors have to take to "*make it*" in the biz.

Therefore, everything that we outline in this guide should not be a problem to effectively execute because **you are an actor**. Actors take their jobs seriously, just like any other career. They get the training, they prepare a killer toolbox, and they make goals. They never make excuses for mistakes, they only aim to learn and grow. So, if that sounds like you? **Let's get started.**

Your Must Haves Before Starting

There are few 'requirements' in the acting business. It's not like medical school where you need 7+ years of schooling and residency to officially become an actor. However, that doesn't mean you should skip out on preparation, training and investing into the same tools that every other actor must have to be considered a the job.

So, here's a small checklist of basics you need to be considered a professional:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Head shot | <input type="checkbox"/> Resumé (Formatted for an Actor) | <input type="checkbox"/> Demo Reels or Scene Work |
|---|--|---|

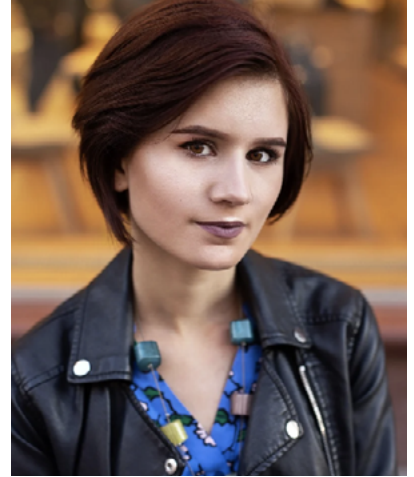
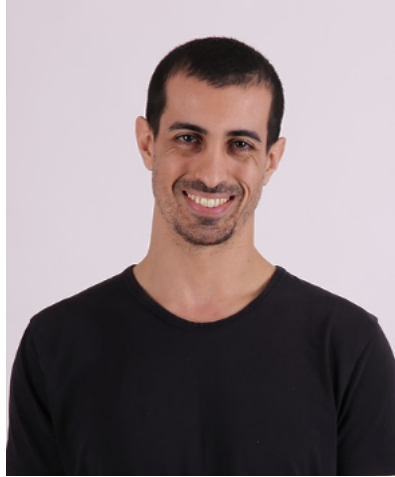
UNACCEPTABLE HEAD SHOT EXAMPLES (DO NOT SEND THESE IN)

* Selected from Pixabay



SEMI-ACCEPTABLE HEAD SHOT EXAMPLES (STARTING OUT ONLY)

* Selected from Pixabay



PROFESSIONAL HEAD SHOT EXAMPLES (ACTORS WHO BOOK WORK)

* Selected from booking actors on our roster



WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN AN ACTORS RESUMÉ

[illegible]

The Actor's Starter Guide

GOOD "SCENE WORK" EXAMPLES

* These are great if you don't have a lot of experience or demo pieces



GOOD "DEMO REEL" EXAMPLES

* These are fun and creative examples from youtube that we found of a well-cut demo reel



Know Your Type

Knowing your type **does not mean** that you are going to type cast yourself. It means that **you are realistic** about knowing what you're good at playing, and that you **understand how to leverage your type** to help you book and build a resumé. After all, at the start of your career – you should avoid trying to be everything to everyone. Instead, be the best **insert type here** you can be and use your natural *'performer aura'* to help you book it!

WHAT A TYPE CONSISTS OF:

Often a type is broke down by looking at what you can realistically play based upon the following criteria:

- Your Age Range (often spanning between 5 years younger to 5 years older)
- Your Physical Appearance
- Your Vibe/Through-line/Essence
- Your Gender Identity
- Your Physicality (Quirks/Ticks/Etc.)

After deciphering the above qualities, you can determine to figure out your '*Character Type*.'

Classic character types can be:

- The Quirky Girl (think Zooey Deschanel or nerdy girl types)
- The Cop/Detective (could be a dirty cop or a hero detective)
- The Bad Guy (think mafia members and psychopathic types)
- The Mean Girl (often seen as cheerleaders or step-ford wives)
- The Clueless Girl/Dumb Jock (athletes or Karen from Mean Girls)
- The Nerd/Underdog (often seen in teen movie tropes)
- The Girl Next Door (your sweet, unsuspecting dream girl)
- The Wise Old Man (think Dumbledore or Gandalf)
- The Anti Hero (the 'bad boy' or rebellious guy/gal)
- The Clown (often the comic relief in stories)

Knowing your type is important because it will help you brand yourself as an actor and you can use it to get in the door! Everyone needs to start somewhere, and once you've established yourself in the biz – that's when you can start trying new types and proving that you're a versatile chameleon. So, be honest with yourself. ***What's your type?***

Use this worksheet to brainstorm your types:

My Characteristics

My Potential Types

My Realistic Types

Setting Goals

Goals can be BIG and SMALL

When speaking about goals, you may have heard someone tell you one of two things: (1) *Dream big and shoot for the stars;* (2) *Be realistic and have a back-up plan.* We're here to tell you that you should be doing both. All actors should have an ultimate goal for their career – one that fills their heart with hope and excitement. It can be unconventional and daring.

Fearless of failure. However, they should also have smaller, realistic, more attainable goals. These are the goals you can achieve now and they are the stepping stones to get to your big goal.

So, let's start planning your goals, shall we?

My DREAM BIG Goals

My STEPPING STONE Goals

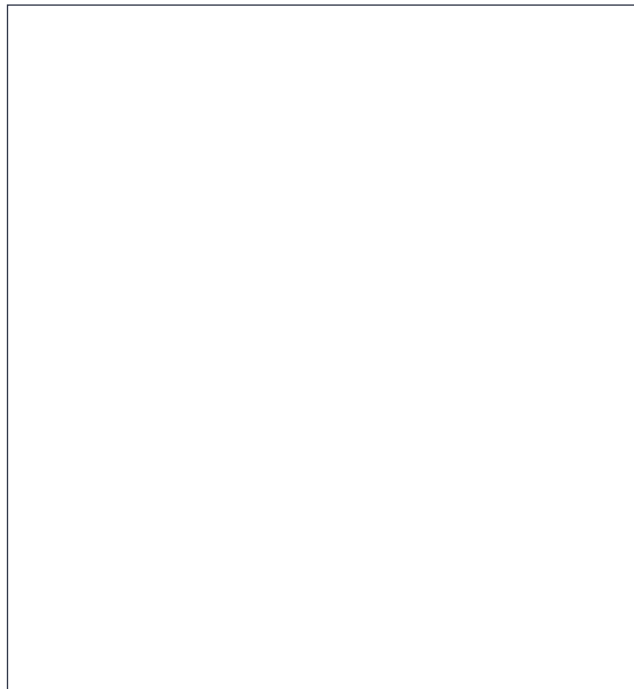
ONE MONTH

SIX MONTHS

ONE YEAR



5 YEARS



What healthy habits can you create?

Achieving your goals cannot come without setting up productive and positive habits that will keep you physically and mentally healthy. That's why it's also important to have **PERSONAL GOALS** outside of acting! A smart actor knows that

they are worth more than the jobs they book or don't book. They have other interests and hobbies to keep them happy.

So, what are those things for you?

What can you do to benefit your mental health?



What can you do to benefit your physical health?

What's a new hobby I can take up?

What are things I love about my life other than acting?

Committing to the Biz

Platforms you will need

Look, if you are ready to be an actor... There are certain platforms you will need to have set up before your agent can start submitting you for work. These need to be filled out and complete before an agent will pitch you for a role. Meaning you should have all your head shots ready and resumé up to date – as well as you should know all your recent measurements and skills that you can list on these softwares.

Most of these platforms cost money. However, an agent does not make a dime when you sign up for them. So if you aren't ready to put your money into these different casting platforms. It might be good to wait to get started as a professional actor until you are ready.

THE MOST COMMON ARE



castingworkbook



CASTING
NETWORKS

backstage★

actors access

Keeping Your Agent Happy

A couple tips and tricks to have a good agent-actor relationship

There are many things actors do that can make or break the kind of relationship they will have with their agent. Some are good, some are bad, but all of them can impact your career.

So, here is a **quick checklist** of all the things you can do as an actor that will keep your agent happy and want to work hard for you!

THE ALL-STAR LIST TO BEING AN AWESOME TALENT

Everything on this list will ensure you have a great working relationship with your agent! Guaranteed!

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keep your resumé & head shots up to date | <input type="checkbox"/> Stay available for your agent and auditions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keep all the info on your acting platforms current | <input type="checkbox"/> Learn how to BOOK OUT and INFORM your agent when you will be unavailable to work or audition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commit to all jobs you've accepted or stated that you're available to work on | <input type="checkbox"/> If you get an audition, always do your best to tape or commit to showing up. Unless you have an emergency or extreme circumstances, it is important to SHOW UP for yourself as an actor. If you don't have time, you should notify your agent ahead of time about your change in availability. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arrive 15 minutes early to auditions and bookings | <input type="checkbox"/> If you want to discuss your career and next steps, schedule a time in advance. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check your email and phone periodically throughout the day and be available for your agent to get a hold of you. A missed phone call or email is often a missed opportunity or job. | <input type="checkbox"/> Recognize your agent is human and they have personal lives as well. They mainly work 24/7. But if you are not getting an instant response to non-urgent matter, respect that they are people, just like you. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Respond to your agent within a 2 hour time frame | <input type="checkbox"/> Be respectful, polite and professional to everyone you meet. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plan ahead and be resourceful (if you don't know how to get to a booking location, use Google Maps or Apple Maps – don't expect your agent to be your personal GPS) | <input type="checkbox"/> Be cognizant of what you post to social media or what you say to others in the industry. It always gets back to us. Trust us. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use Google to find answers to simple questions or ask your other actor friends for advice/help | <input type="checkbox"/> Trust your agent and their reasons for why they are submitting you for the roles they do. Your agent might be submitting based off of feedback that Casting gives them or patterns they notice in the roles you often get called for. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> If you do have multiple, important questions – email them in a batch. Avoid emailing multiple times for multiple questions. And do not text or call these kind questions unless it's urgent. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ask them what you could do or invest in that will help them do their job well. These conversations are productive and useful to help you book more work. | |



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You're now ready to #BOOKIT!

We realize this is probably a lot of information to process. However, this is what we expect out of every actor on our roster for us to do our job to the best of our ability. Therefore, if you want to be Team BOOKITTALENT, we hope this guide helps you understand our expectations and what we need to see to have a healthy working relationship!

Remember, this is a very fun and fruitful career, but it also takes hard work! So if you're ready to commit and be an actor – we can't wait to work together!

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**APPLY
NOW**

BOOKITTALENT is a licensed agency (ER#856878) based out of that services actors across Canada and the US. We are committed to providing opportunity to a diverse range of actors, and we aim to foster supportive and encouraging environments for our wonderful artists.

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