

Acting in a Nutshell

Forget everything else, this is all you need to remember:

Pretend it's the first time you're **SAYING IT.**

Pretend it's the first time you're **HEARING IT.**

Pretend it's the first time you're **DOING IT.**

Auditions

Before you enter the audition room, remind yourself: they want you to solve their casting problem, they want to give you the job

Remember this.

Be brave – make a strong decision about the character, it'll make you stand out and show that you think about your work. It'll also give the director something to direct.

For film and TV auditions, **always learn the scenes you're given** – it'll allow you to make eye contact with the people auditioning you and for their camera to really 'see' you.

Wear clothes that hint at the character you are auditioning for.

When working on speeches and scenes for auditions, rehearse them out loud. It will take away the fear of speaking them for the first time when auditioning.

Don't lie on your CV. It'll come back and bite you.

When you audition, you're not just auditioning for that job. **You are sowing seeds for your entire career.** Make the right impact and a good director or casting agent will remember you for years.

An audition is also an opportunity for you to discover what 'they' would be like to work with.

Commercial castings are a law unto themselves – **leave your ego at the door** and just go for it.

**Getting any job
is a miracle,
not getting a job
is the norm.**

**Get used to it
and don't get
downhearted.**

**You will not get
most jobs you
go for.**

Make no mistake...

**...getting a job you
want is a buzz like
no other.**

Living the Life

How will you live? How will you pay your rent or mortgage? Plan on all your friends and colleagues working and you not even getting an agent. Plan for the worst – that way you will be totally prepared for both the bad times and the good.

Project, plan. Imagine where will you be 10 years from now. How about 20 years from now? What kind of work do you want to be doing? How can you help it happen?

BE PROACTIVE.

An actor's life is hard. The challenge of earning a living is hard enough, let alone the psychological challenge of staying focused and not letting your doubts and fears ruin you.

If you drink too much, smoke dope too much and party too much, you may find you have no memory left for learning lines and acting after you hit 50. That's not based on scientific evidence, just the experience of working with actors who have destroyed themselves.

You should know that if you do a play for 'profit share', 99% of the time there will be no profit to share.

Most young actors imagine being a huge star or a total failure. There is another way: most actors drift along, 'jobbing' for a living.

Pace yourself.

It's not a sprint...

...it's a marathon.

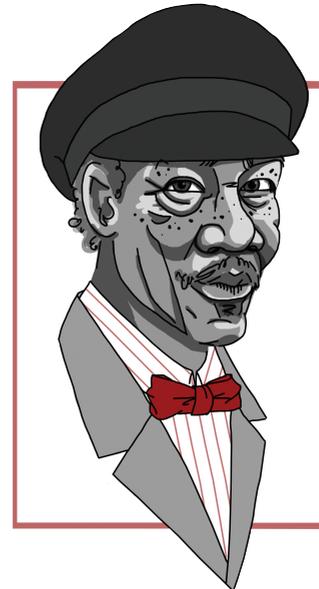


De Niro
was 30 when
he made
Mean Streets

Kathy
Bates
was 42 when
she made
Misery



Samuel L.
Jackson
was 46 when
he made
Pulp Fiction



Morgan
Freeman
was 52 when
he made
*Driving Miss
Daisy*

Get used to hearing non-actors say:

Oh, you're an ak-tor.

Have you been in anything good?

When are we going to see you on *EastEnders*?

Have I seen you in anything?

Are you resting?



Learn to be gracious in replying to all of these...

...good luck with that!