

Self Tape Guide

BEFORE YOU START

Here's what you'll need:

- *Camera* – the camera on your phone will work just fine. Use the front facing camera for best quality. (This is no time for a selfie!) When filming your scene please have your phone in LANDSCAPE mode.
- *Lighting* – we need to be able to see you clearly but there's no need for anything complicated. Natural light works best so facing a window should provide sufficient lighting. Please don't sit with a window behind you however or we'll only be able to see you in silhouette! If you can't find a suitable spot with natural lighting a strong light source (such as a lamp) off to one side and a smaller diffuse light (such as a lamp with a white t-shirt draped over it to diffuse the light) on the opposite side will have you ready for your close up!
- *Microphone*- the internal microphone in your camera phone will be more than sufficient.

SETTING UP YOUR EQUIPMENT

- Set your camera up level with your eye line. You'll need something to keep it steady; either a tripod or simply propping it up on a secure solid surface will do nicely. No hand held footage please.
- It is best to film your scene against a neutral background. A neutral coloured wall will be ideal. Removing any pictures on the wall or other clutter helps us focus on your performance.
- If you are using a reader to read in the 'off camera' lines, have them sit/stand next to the camera so that your eye line is in the right place close to the lens.
- When framing your shot you just want your head and shoulders in view.
- You don't need to be shooting IMAX quality resolution! Just turn your video on and start recording. If you are a tech whiz and want to adjust your resolution, you definitely don't need to be shooting any higher resolution than 720p HD at 30fps.

SHOOTING YOUR SCENE

- You can start by telling us your name and your agent (if you have one) or just perform your monologue or scene of choice. Your scene should be no more than 2 minutes, please.

- All we are looking for is one complete take of your chosen monologue or scene from start to finish in one unbroken take.
- It's tempting to keep shooting endless takes in pursuit of that one perfect performance. There's honestly no need – this isn't an exam! You're just looking for one good, useable take you can send us. As a rule of thumb, if you're shooting more than four or five takes you're probably shooting too many takes!
- If you are self operating the camera, give yourself an extra 30 seconds after you finish your performance before you turn off the recording. This will make your life infinitely easier in the editing phase!

AFTER YOUR SHOOT

Sadly this isn't the time to retire to your trailer and perfect your autograph for the fans. You've still got work to do!

- First you'll need to pick your best take.
- If you were self operating the camera, you'll need to trim the beginning and end of your take; the bit where you're turning the camera on and off! There's lots of free editing apps/software out there to use. Some of our favourites are iMovie (for Mac and iPhone /iPad), Windows Movie Maker (for PC) and YouCut (for android). Feel free to use whatever unleashes your inner Thelma Schoonmaker!
- Next upload your video to YouTube or Vimeo. Please label your video in the following format : YOURNAME_HOOLEY

Top tip: using a compressor will help it upload faster. There are lots of free compressor apps/software available. You might want to try Video Compressor Sizer (for iPhone/ iPad), Handbrake (for Mac/Windows) or VidCompress (for android).

- Send us a link to your video via the application form on our website
- Sit back and reflect on a job well done!

We can't wait to see your self tape and meet new talent in our region. Best of luck!