# BEST PRACTICES FOR SELF-TAPE AND VIRTUAL AUDITIONS

# INTRODUCTION

Self-tapes and virtual auditions have long been a part of our industry. They are convenient, timesaving, and allow a wider variety of Performers to participate in the audition process. However, with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of self-tapes and virtual auditions have almost entirely replaced in-person auditions. This has presented opportunities as well as challenges to everyone involved in the casting process, including Performers, agents, casting directors, directors, and producers.

The following industry best practices have been developed to provide a reasonable and sustainable solution to the growing number of challenges placed on Performers in relation to self-tapes. It is understood by all parties that these provisions will not always prove practical due to the fluid nature of our business. In circumstances where the recommendations outlined are challenging to implement, the Casting Director involved is urged to make this clear to Performers and their agents, and to keep the lines of communication open.

NOTE: These best practices are suggestions that we strongly encourage Casting to follow and are not contractual obligations under the BC Master Production Agreement (BCMPA), unless otherwise stated.

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## SUBMIT SELF-TAPE REQUESTS

- Casting Directors should provide as much information as possible when requesting a self-tape, including but not limited to the tone, style of piece, period, and creative vision.

- Notes on the project from the Director or Lead Creative would be valuable.

## SELF-TAPE TURNAROUND

- Casting Directors will make reasonable efforts to provide Performers with a minimum of 48 hours' notice to turnaround a self-tape, pursuant to A2808 of the BCMPA.

- Weekends: If a self-tape is requested on a Friday, best efforts will be made to give Performers until noon on the following Monday to submit. Casting Directors should take statutory holidays into consideration when applicable.

- Where possible, Casting Directors will make best efforts to accommodate deadline extension requests.

# AUDITIONS

- Performers should not be asked to learn more than eight (8) pages of dialogue for a first self-tape audition.

- Performers should not be asked to provide more than two (2) Principal roles or more than two (2) versions of each scene, in one (1) self-tape audition.

- In circumstances where the Performer is unable to or is uncomfortable with providing a self-tape, they and/or their agent may make a request for a virtual audition. The Casting Director will try and accommodate such requests if possible.

- Readers can be virtual, via a pre-recorded app, or in person. The reader does not need to be a professional Performer.

- We encourage Casting Directors to familiarize themselves with Article A406 of the BCMPA - the Performers with Disabilities clause, which outlines the need to make reasonable accommodations for visually and/or hearing-impaired Performers during interviews and auditions.

- Virtual/self-taped auditions should not be evaluated based on a Performer's equipment, set-up, backdrop, technical abilities and/or recording quality (e.g. lighting and camera). However, it is important that the Performers are well lit and audible so they can be seen and clearly heard.

- Performers should not be required to translate any material from one language to another language but may ask in instances where it is just a couple of lines. Otherwise, script translation is the responsibility of the production company.

# CALLBACKS

- Casting Directors shall provide feedback, redirects, and director's notes, if applicable, before callbacks.

# PERFORMERS

- Performers should read through the entire audition request prior to taping to ensure they have a complete understanding of the instructions.

- Performers should always ensure that their name is included in the file name.

- Performers/Agents should send regrets in a timely fashion if the Performer is unavailable or uninterested in the role so that other Performers may be considered for the opportunity.

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