

TIPS TO HELP YOU GET A GREAT ACTING HEADSHOT

1. Personality! That's the key. Many people may have a similar look to you, but it's your heart and mind that makes your look special.
2. Look like your headshot. This is not a time to be a beauty queen. You need to give casting directors and clients an accurate version of yourself.
3. Keep your clothing choices simple. Avoid patterns and prints in favour of solid colors. No white or very light pastels. Simple clothing helps the viewer focus on YOU.
4. Spark the viewer's imagination. Don't dress like a nurse or a police officer. You want the viewer to be able to imagine you as many different characters from one picture.
5. Go easy on the makeup! Yes, you want to look your best, but that does NOT mean layers of eye shadow and blush. If you can, hire a makeup artist, but check them out first. Keep in mind, you should pay close attention to what your makeup artist does so when you go to an audition or to meet an agent you can walk in the door looking as close to your picture as possible. This doesn't necessarily affect the men.
6. Don't show a lot of skin! Ladies, this means no excess cleavage. Gentlemen, keep your shirts on. Casting directors want to see you... But not that much of you!
7. Keep in mind what kind of work you are trying to get. Is theatre your aim or is it for film or commercial work, is it for your company brochure?
8. It's all about the eyes. Of course your smile is important, but the eyes can make or break your picture. Your eyes give you the opportunity to show the layers in your personality. Rather than thinking about the viewer looking at your picture, think about you looking at the viewer.
9. $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ and full-length shots are very standard and I will incorporate them as well. Especially with eCastings they will more often than not ask you for a close-up – half shot and full length.
10. Be yourself, be relaxed and show what makes you unique – Whether you have a large nose, small mouth or any detail that you probably dislike about yourself. You've got to love being you – especially in a stills shot.
11. Final many people turn up as nervous as hell... Here is a thought for you. If the pictures are rubbish... Did anyone die? No, things go wrong, technically, physically etc. But they can all be fixed. It is something to enjoy and have fun with. It is important... But it will not effect or affect who and what you are as a person.

Anthony Straeger - <http://www.asheadshots.de>

QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD ALWAYS ASK A PHOTOGRAPHER

1. Do you have a portfolio of your past work?
2. What are your rates?
3. What is included in your rate?
4. Do you shoot indoor or outdoor?
5. How many looks does your session include?
6. How long is a session?
7. Do you recommend anyone for makeup, hair, retouching?

All these are answered on my website. But there are many photographers out there and you should not just speak to one photographer – You should speak to a few. Find out who you feel most comfortable with and who will understand your needs.



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