

1.) What should be your process to find the strongest actors for your project?

To hire a casting director to narrow down the selection of actors to 10, meet with the actors and casting direction for the audition and observe how well the actor takes instructions and how easy it is to work with them.

2.) What is the job of the casting director?

The casting director will slog through 100-200 actors that submit their headshots for a role and narrow it down to 10 or so for callbacks and schedule auditions.

3.) What is the best way to handle the audition process?

Be positive, give them room to be creative, and gauge how well the actors take instruction to see how easy they are to work with.

4.) What is the purpose of a table read?

A table read is an opportunity for the whole cast and director to sit around a table and read through the script a few times. It introduces everyone to each other and allows for the actors to get into character.

5.) What type of language is most useful when directing actors?

It is important to direct actors with action verbs rather than adjectives. Be direct with action words.

6.) Why is it important to understand the purpose of a scene BEFORE discussing it with your actors?

The director needs to clear on what the point of the scene is. The director must be clear in their own mind about what the story is what the scene is doing in the telling of the story.

7.) What is the purpose of Uta Hagen's "six questions a director must be able to answer?"

In giving the actors the answers to the first four questions in Uta's Hagen's list for directors, you've provided them with the necessary background for the scene. If you can answer the last two questions, you've found the point of the scene and they key action verb and direct object.

8.) Why is it important that you as the director, as well as the actor, understand a character's background when playing a scene, even if that background is not explicitly stated in the script?

It's important to provide a character history and background to develop motivation but it must be geared toward giving the actor the necessary information to tackle the scenes at hand. Concentrate on what is essential for the actor to experience the emotional moment of the scene you're rehearsing.

9.) How do you keep actors from getting bored of doing the same thing over and over again?

The best way to keep an actor fresh is to give them breaks often and early. If an actor can get up and walk away whenever you don't need them and grab a coffee or a snack their morale is kept high. Also, keep stand-ins on hand to block scenes for lighting so the actors aren't standing around for hours on end.

10.) Write 500 words on your own philosophy of working with actors. How do you plan to handle them? What will be your process?

My approach would be to take an acting class for the actor's experience and note any questions that arise from direction given, actor perspective, and cast and crew perspective. Doing so will give a better definition and understanding of the actor's process and expectation. Additionally, it will provide a clear connection in what the actor needs and how best to approach that as an actor from the director side.

Speaking directly in action verbs, creating a clear and detailed character development and background or history drives the character motivation, which answers exactly what the actor is seeking.

Preparation in the above areas will allow for more fluid communication and effective leadership and decision making as the knowledge will be concise, explained simply and in direct terms, and efficient in managing time and goals for each scene shot on set.

Preparation and approach will serve as the basis of understanding and elicit listening and rouse trust. Once established, the team will get to know each other on deeper levels and respect each position and the respective roles. This is the sweet spot for creative collaboration. That would be the approach I will take and the process I have pieced together from witnessing first hand, while on various sets, what works best and is successful for the desired result.