

## CHAPTER TEN

# READY, SET, GO

## What to Know and Do Before Starting to Audition

### READY

Actors can't wait until they can start booking work in films, on TV and in the theatre. They want to work on sets with directors and professional actors and get paid. The majority must audition to get the work. Yet most only get hired for a small percentage of the jobs for which they audition because auditioning is a competition. Many participate but only one wins each role.

There are a lot of actors and want-to-be actors but not much competition. I define the "competition" as those who are talented (often gifted), who have done their research, training, preparation, packaging and marketing, and who continue to develop their craft. This is a lot to accomplish and it takes time, but it is crucial in order to compete. Be part of the competition, not an actor without direction, dedication, or the right training.

**NOTE:** Auditioning is not the end of your training. When you are prepared and confident, it is the next step in your development. And when you stay in class, the experience you get from auditioning and working will augment your training and help you become a better actor.

Are you ready? Don't gamble with your career by starting to audition before you are ready. Agents and casting directors have a limited number of actors whom they can see at any given time. If you audition prematurely and do mediocre or bad work, industry pros may choose not to see you again. This is why I am passionate about actors being truly prepared before seeking representation and work. You may ask, "When is the right time to start?" This is an important question. Contemplate it. Don't let your enthusiasm overwhelm your logic. In Chapter Five, I have laid out a course of action that should adequately prepare and guide you.

*Casting directors have memories like elephants. If you were to audition for one before you were ready, it could have disastrous results. If your name came up years later when you were operating at the top of your game, trust me, that casting director would remember your weak audition and not have you in. Find someone you trust and let him/her tell you when they think you are ready.* **LESLIE JORDAN, Emmy-Award-Winning Actor**