

INTRODUCTION

As you embark on this voyage, know that you are one of the many who are lost, overwhelmed, confused, and most likely afraid of making mistakes and even questioning if acting is really for you. I understand all too well how you feel and can comprehensively guide you through this quagmire of dilemmas and misinformation.

The first few years is a crucial time for the new actor. In order to have any chance at a career you need to know:

- How and what you do to start?
- What is the right path?
- Where do you get the best information?
- Who should you listen to?
- What do you do first, -next and after that?
- What are the costs?
- How long will it take?
- Should you become an actor?
- And a lot more that you don't even know you need to know.

You have questions, doubts and concerns. You will in all probability encounter lots of people with ideas, opinions and good intentions. They will offer information that they have heard or experienced. It is important to understand that many of these helpful people may not have the information needed to best serve you.. Most every day, I interview people to take my workshops who want to pursue an acting career but are coming to it with inaccurate direction. Many have wasted valuable time, money and developed bad habits thereby making the training process more difficult and time consuming. Thus, it can take longer to get a career started. So, it is important to get as much of the right information at the start.

You are at a crossroads, but there is no need to be unduly concerned if you do your research. It may be troublesome to souse out solid sources but it is out there. Sometimes, it comes in the form of a book, lectures, interviews on PBS, biographies on the A & E channel, magazine articles, websites, internet research, or friends and family who might know someone who knows someone credible working in the business who will give you answers to your questions. There are many who have traveled the road, weathered the storms, experienced the pitfalls and have succeeded. These are the professionals whose opinions you should seek. (Understand that professionals don't always agree with each other). I can't stress enough that those you choose to listen to can be the biggest influence on whether you will be successful. It can create a world of opportunities or send you down the wrong path.

I congratulate you on buying this book. You're doing your homework. It looked to you as if I would be qualified to give you the information you seek. After all, I have:

- Acted in 400 national commercials and approximately 100 television shows and films.
- Owned and ran the largest casting and training facility in this country for six years.
- Since 1982, I have been one of the top commercial audition teachers in Los Angeles.
- Voted 2009 Backstage West, Favorite Commercial Workshop Program,
- Since 1991, run the most successful sole proprietor acting workshop programs in LA
- Have done the commercial casting for hundreds of commercials.
- Had my own small advertising agency.
- Directed and helped write an Off-Broadway play.
- Created a videotape program helping kids to start their careers (currently in distribution).
- And co-created a CD program (currently in distribution) to help actors do their best auditions.

Traditionally, one or two authors presenting one opinion write most "how-to" books. Yet it is my firm belief that there is no one way to be successful in any career. That is why this book also offers the opinions of