

## Canadian Auditions

Auditioning for roles in Canada is not much different than auditioning in the U.S. The process of producers and casting directors holding casting sessions is the same, as well as having an agent find you an audition. Like in the



U.S. many casting agents will call back an actor several times before choosing the right actor for the role. The standard time of an audition is still between three to five minutes and most talent has representation to book auditions as well as negotiate contracts.

The big difference between Canadian actors and U.S. actors is the acting guilds they belong too. U.S. actors should belong to SAG (Screen Actors Guild) or AFTRA (American Federation of Television and Radio Arts). In Canada, most actors belong to the Alliance of Cinema, Television and Radio Arts or the Canadian Actors Equity Association (for live performance).

These guilds set minimum fees and working standards. Actors must have some experience performing in equity productions before they are eligible to join. It is possible to get roles without belonging to either of these guilds, but most working actors in Canada are auditioning as members of at least one.

Besides the difference in guilds, auditioning in Canada and the U.S. has the same proto-call. Show up to an audition fifteen minutes early, bring your headshot and resume, be courteous to the casting assistants and do your best. Thank the casting director when you are



finished with your monologue and wait two minutes after your audition, outside, in case the casting director wants to see you once more. After two minutes, sign out with the casting assistant and leave quietly. Wait for a call about the part, but don't call them. Keep auditioning and always be respectful.