

Recommendations for an E-CASTING

(as of February 2021)

GENERAL

Do not be afraid to do an e-casting! View an e-casting as an opportunity to present your own interpretation of the character. E-castings are only *one* step in a complex casting process, in which your previous references and showreel are also taken into consideration. We casting directors are happy to assist you in the production of an e-casting as consulting partners and are interested in your acting being seen in this way. However, only follow e-casting invitations if they come from a reputable source (such as casting directors, production companies). Make sure this is the case.

In e-casting – in contrast to e-reading – you should master your role text. This allows you to handle the text confidently and gives you more freedom. The e-casting should express your engagement with the role. The technical quality of the video recording is not the deciding factor. It is only important that you can be seen and heard well.

The processing of the material such as editing, adding music, or titles, is neither necessary nor desired. The length of your casting material depends on the number of scenes you have. You are welcome to offer two variants of a scene and optionally supplement your e-casting recordings with a short introduction. As a rule, the size of your entire video material should not exceed a length of about 10 to 12 minutes. Look at your e-casting recordings before uploading, check image detail and lighting

LOCATION

A bright room in daylight is the ideal place for your recording. Alternatively, switch on the corresponding light sources. Note that your face in particular is well lit. You can also shoot suitable scenes in a bright, calm and quiet outdoor place.

TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT

It is not necessary to rent a studio or a professional camera. The webcam of a laptop or mobile device usually meets the requirements of video quality. If available, you can of course also use a digital camera with tripod.

IMAGE AND FILE FORMAT

We recommend H.264-encoded videos with a resolution of no less than 640 pixels and no more than 960 pixels in width for a smooth processing process and the duration of the upload or download of your material. A resolution of 720p is sufficient in any case. These settings have normal camcorders and mobile phones.

All video formats are usually supported by the different systems.

CAMERA

Unless otherwise indicated, act frontally, in a close or semi-close position to the camera. Avoid shooting in profile unless these or other movements are explicitly desired. If you use a mobile phone, you can use it to film in landscape format. If possible, move your recording device to a steady position or mount.

TEXT

If your scene contains dialogue, it is helpful to record it with an acting partner. Your acting partner does not have to be a professional, and should not be seen in the recording. It is also sufficient if the playback text is simply read in, or you work with a recording of the playback text. It is also not absolutely necessary that an acting partner is live on location. In today's day and age there are multiple possibilities for virtual interaction: Zoom, Skype, Teams, etc. Also, some actor databases have tools for virtual castings! Apps such as LINE LEARNER make it possible to record the playback text beforehand. If necessary, the play-in text can also be recorded by telephone. Even e-castings where the text is only considered are fine. But make sure you have good timing.

Trust that casting directors are trained to abstract from the technical circumstances to recognize quality and skills, beyond playing partner, forms of recording, and lighting.

UPLOAD

Copy the recorded video files to the desktop of your computer or download them directly from your smartphone (iOS from version 6 or Android) to the specified website or the corresponding online casting portal. Make your recordings available in individual video files so that a selection is possible.

Make the necessary entries in the casting portal so that your material can be assigned: First name, surname and e-mail are mandatory fields. Also enter a

personal email address. Casting directors appreciate the personal contact for queries about your e-casting. If necessary, also enter your mobile phone number. After a successful upload, the files you upload will be processed. This process can take anywhere from minutes to several hours, depending on server load. Finally, you will receive an automatic notification to the email address you provided, which includes a link to your e-casting. If you find yourself waiting for this email, check the spam folder of your email account. In case of technical difficulties, please first contact the respective provider of the Internet portal (Castupload, etc.). If you get stuck, clarify with the caster whether you can make the material available via another online portal or via WeTransfer.

If you have general questions about the implementation of the e-casting, do not hesitate to contact us. It is in our interest to present you in the best possible way. We are happy to support you in delivering an e-casting with which everyone (especially you) is satisfied and wish you much success.