

## SMFA Casting Submission Websites

Please see page 206 (the chapter called **Become a Booking Machine**) in the 4th edition of *Self-Management for Actors: Getting Down to (Show) Business* for how to smartly use self-submission casting websites based on the research you've done on your target buyers and the types of projects you wish to appear in, for the very next tier. As always, consider your budget, the quality of projects that you can verify are legitimately casting through particular sites, and whether you're able to confirm that specific targets use those sites before plopping down your hard-earned dough to be listed "everywhere."

Casting directors are not out looking for *more* websites on which to find actors. We each have our favorite sites and we use those. Do your research! (Have I said that enough?)

**Actors Access** (the agent and manager side of this submission service is Breakdown Express, all owned by Breakdown Services)—all producers are vetted, union status is verified, and most of the theatrical (film and television) casting happening in the major markets are listed through Breakdowns. Free to have an account; costs to submit (unlimited with annual membership to Showfax, which includes audition sides).

**Casting Networks** (AKA LA Casting in Los Angeles; NY Casting in New York; etc.) skews commercial in most markets, with a price structure that is higher if you are unrepped. Submit early, as commercial casting moves fast!

**IMDb** features a casting submission service and as of present, the projects are not verified re: declared union status, nor are producers vetted for professionalism or track record. Until we see how this shakes out, proceed with caution, especially if you're submitting on a project on which the production isn't even hiring a casting director to do the work of casting! Of course, you must have a well-cared-for IMDb page once you have your first IMDb credit(s) to share your photo and demo reel, and an IMDb-Pro membership is essential for targeting your buyers.

**Now Casting** specializes in the nonunion, copy-credit-meals, spec projects, and student films territory, and is often recommended in minor markets. In Los Angeles, Now Casting has lost its 2004-era pull as a casting site due to a huge lawsuit and due to its principals' ownership of a casting director workshop facility.

**Backstage** is used by independent and student filmmakers; producers of theatre, nonunion, spec, and copy-credit-meals projects; bookers offering modeling opportunities; and casting directors holding open calls. Great especially for theatre actors.

**iActor** (SAG-AFTRA's profile site) is free for union members to have a profile, but seems to have no major casting happening.

**Craigslist**—unvetted, unscreened, often very sketchy "opportunities" listed by non-pros. Yes, occasionally, there can be something that's real here, but the risk is so high for the shady stuff that I generally recommend against trolling Craigslist for casting opportunities.

**Actor Cast** is an offshoot from CastIt.biz (a popular studio-level casting site) but it doesn't seem to result in the quantity bookings in quality projects that Actors Access does, despite the higher tier of the studio-level projects listed at its sister site.

**Casting Frontier** was a commercial actor bar code system that evolved into a submission interface and it seems to be used mostly for commercial opportunities

#### Regional Markets' Top Casting Sites

Skybolt (Pacific Northwest)

800 Casting (Southeast)

Casting Workbook (Canada)

e-Talenta (Europe)

Spotlight (UK)

Equity (UK)

AT2 (Australia)

Showcast (Australia, New Zealand)

Remember to *always* check with your local film commission for projects that are coming to your area. Here's a database of film commissions worldwide:

<http://directory.afci.org/listing-category/film-commission-members>

Have fun and happy submitting!

Come jam with us in the *SMFA* Facebook group, catch us out on social media with the #SMFAninjas hashtag, or dive in at the Bonnie Gillespie instructional dojo to go deeper with this badassery.

*Pssst!* If you find this or any other of these free resources of exceptional value, we'd love a tweet, a photo of you with your copy of *SMFA* for our awesome gallery, or even a nice review at Amazon!