

# Actors and Models

## Tips for the Perfect Headshot

### Headshot Definition

A headshot is a picture that a person uses as a calling card. Actors and models typically use headshots to staple their resumes for auditions, casting calls, comp cards. Musicians, business professionals, agents and artists also have headshots that let people understand their personalities. It is important that the headshot portrays the talents current look.

### Preparing for your Headshot Session

- Prior to the session, try on outfits to check for fit, stains, and color.
- Have clothes ironed and on hangers.
- Consult with your photographer about your expectations.
- Get a good night's sleep and don't eat anything heavy the night before.
- When you wake up, be happy, today is going to be a fun day and you want to show that positive energy in your images.
- Eat something healthy for breakfast, lunch so you won't be bloated in your pictures.
- Don't get a new haircut just before the shoot.
- Do not try/use any new product on your hair, face or body the day before or few days before your shoot.

### Have Two of Them(Actors)

You should have at least two headshots in your repertoire: A commercial shot, and a theatrical shot.

- Your commercial shot: Smile your biggest, cheesiest smile. Show 'em that you can sell toothpaste with ease. Use this headshot for commercial and musical theatre auditions.
- Your theatrical shot: Get serious and intense. Show 'em that you can brood and pout better than Susan Lucci. Use this headshot for anything dramatic: The soaps, theatre, film, etc.

### What to Wear

- Wear what you love. Look through your closet and find several tops/shirts that make you feel confident, sexy, cocky, a world conqueror. If you bring something that you're not comfortable with, it will show in your images.
- Make sure your shirts/tops fit well, are clean, pressed and look new. Bring them in on hangers rather than balled up in a bag.

#### Styles

- Keep it simple and age appropriate.

- A suit or jacket are great for men wanting a more professional look
- Decide what type of neckline accentuates your features. If you want to elongate your neck, wear a v-neck. To show off your collarbones, wear a scoop-necked shirt. If you are large chested, make sure you wear a higher neckline unless you want to show a little cleavage.
- Keep the neckline simple, limit buttons and frills. V-necks are great.
- Solid shirts work very well. No frills or patterns.

### **Colors**

- Solid colors are great.
  - Darker clothes attract less attention and put the attention on your face and eyes
  - Blue/green/turquoise clothing can help emphasize blue/green/hazel eyes
- Bring LOTS of shirts in LOTS of colors in LOTS of different styles that emphasizes different roles/characters (professional, blue-collar worker, intellectual, etc...). This will give us options. Sometimes, what looks good in person does not look as good on camera and vice versa. Therefore, you will want to have options and be able to change your look.

### **What not to wear**

- Don't overdress.
- Avoid large logos or branding.
- Avoid white shirts unless you plan to wear it underneath something.
- Avoid hats and props.
- Avoid busy patterns and large lines or stripes.
- Avoid glitter, sparkles, rhinestones, sequins, or other shiny/reflective materials.
- Avoid red as a dominant color
- Turtlenecks are almost always a bad idea (they crowd the face).
- Don't worry about shoes too much unless you specifically want a full-length look

### **Hair and Makeup Tips**

- Hiring a professional makeup artist and hairstylist is recommended.
- Keep hair and makeup simple. Headshots should look like YOU as YOU appear in the casting office.
- Wear a heavy layer of translucent powder - your face will appear flawless in photos. Shine disappears, pores seem smaller, skin looks even, and blush is smoother
- Make-up should be clean and natural
- Your makeup or hair-style should be exactly what you would do for an audition
- Men may need base, concealer, and powder for the shoot. It is best to obtain your own so it is specially matched to your skin tone
- Line lips before applying matte lipstick, then reline. Don't overdo it.
- Dip a cotton bud in powder and run along lip line to prevent color from bleeding
- Avoid shimmers or products with lots of sparkle or shine

- Avoid frosts or garish colors
- Don't get a new haircut just before the shoot (you may want to let it grow-in a bit or get used to styling a new cut)
- Do not try/use any new product on your hair, face or body the day before or few days before your shoot
- Avoid over-styling. Keep it simple
- If you are under 16-years old the only makeup you need is lip balm or lip gloss

## Trends

- Headshot photographers are shooting closer than ever due to online casting that begins with thumbnail images. Take this into consideration when selecting outfits, hair, and make-up.
- For actors, in addition to theatrical and commercial looks, consider shooting more character-driven expressions to give your agent multiple looks to select from when submitting.

## When to Get Headshots

- Most children don't need headshots before age five.
- Major changes to your child's look, including growth spurts, mean it's time for new headshots.
- Major body changes like weight loss or gain.
- At least every two years.
- Hairstyle or facial hair changes.
- You have aged.
- You have made noticeable changes to your looks: Headshot trend shifts.
- Fashion trend shifts.
- You're consistently getting called in for roles that aren't your type or you're not getting called in at all.
- Your agent or manager asks for new shots.

## Selecting Headshots

- *A great headshot will look like you on your best day.*
- The eyes should be engaging and tell a story. You should be drawn to the image.
- The photo should be a high quality image with great lighting and perfect color.
- Re-touching should look natural.
- The image should "pop" and not look "flat."
- The background should not be distracting.

## Jewelry

- Keep jewelry extremely simple - small is better. Except going for a specific 'type', small studs work best.

- Avoid jewelry that would distract from your face or that looks dated
- The picture is about **your face**, not your jewelry
- Be prepared to remove facial piercings or multiple ear piercings if needed

### **What to Bring**

Your previous headshots (so we can improve)

Sample headshots to help communicate the look you want

Favorite Music (iPod/MP3 player, phone, thumb-drive)

Various changes of clothing (see above)

A good attitude

Lip balm

Hair brush/comb

Makeup and hair products you prefer (especially if you have allergies)

### **Arrive With:**

Hair styled and makeup already applied (if not using makeup artist)

Already dressed in first outfit