

10-STEP CHECKLIST

BECOME AN ACTOR IN FILM & TELEVISION

by Actress
Laura Lieben





#1 Learn the Industry!

It's called "*Show Business*" for a reason! Underneath all the Hollywood glitz, glam and movie magic, filmmaking is a *real business* run by *real people*...like you! Learning the industry will help you step in like a true professional. A couple great places to learn for free are the [Backstage](#) blog and the [Inside Acting](#) podcast.

#2 Hone your Craft!

Would you hire a plumber with no experience? Would you hire a lawyer who's never won a case? It may look easy but *acting is a profession!* Take it seriously. Read books, attend classes and workshops, practice consistently and become a master of your craft!

#3 Become the CEO of You.inc

Most of us become actors because we love *Acting!* However, a professional actor needs to wear *two hats*: the *ARTIST* hat and the *C.E.O.* hat. When you're *on set*, you can simply show up and treat acting like a *JOB*. But *off set*, you're responsible for managing your acting *BUSINESS*. Think of yourself as an "*actorpreneur*."

#4 Refine your Unique Product!

To sell your product (in this case, your acting services), you need to *know* your product! Casting Directors aren't looking for *actors*; they're looking for *characters*. You can increase your chances of being cast by discovering your ideal character type and using it in your marketing materials. (*Yes, typecasting can actually be your friend!*)



#5 Capture your Acting Headshot!

Your headshot is an 8x10 photo that must be more than just a portrait. It is a tool to represent your ideal character type and help get you in the door to audition for the roles that you are a perfect fit for!

#6 Create your Acting Resume!

The format for an acting resume is different from the typical job resume you may be used to. It must fit onto one 8x10 page which you then attach to the back of your Acting Headshot, facing outward so you can flip over the headshot to see the resume. This is the package you'll bring to every audition. (*Google "Actor Resume" for some examples.*)

#7 Build a Professional Website!

These days, it seems no business is seen as legitimate without a website! Luckily, there are some great platforms that make it easy for even the most technically challenged to create a beautiful website! [This is my favorite.](#)

#8 Find Casting Calls!

Find your local film school or college/university with a film program that may need actors for their short films. You might try searching for Facebook groups in your area (for example: "[your closest city] Casting Calls" or "[city] Auditions" or "[city] Actors."). [Cast-Caller](#) is also a great site with many open calls you can access without an agent.



#9 Get Experience!

In the beginning, go for the “lower hanging fruit” – the volunteer jobs, student films and one-liner roles. Use these experiences to master the art of auditioning, hone your skills and build your portfolio. *Then* you can think about going for bigger roles on your favorite TV Series! If you throw yourself out there too soon, you’ll risk ruining your reputation and it may be impossible to get in those audition rooms again when you’re better prepared.

#10 Partner with a Talent Agency!

It’s often believed that in order to get work, you need an agent. The opposite is true: to get an agent, you need work! Agents don’t represent people who *want* to be actors; they represent *professional actors*. Once you have a body of work to show, then you’ll want to start reaching out to talent agents for a partnership that can help you get in the door to bigger auditions for the movies and the TV series you love!

WARNING:

A legitimate talent agent will never charge you an upfront fee to represent you; they will only take a percentage (usually between 10-15%) of whatever you earn as an actor. Don't fall for those scams that promise fame and fortune and leave you broke!

You've got this, I believe in you!

Laura

Congratulations!

To encourage you on your acting journey, I'd like to give you a **free** 1-month membership on [SkillShare](#) where you'll get access to my 2-hour acting business course, "**Ready 4 Action!**" as well as hundreds of other interesting courses!

In "**Ready 4 Action!**" I'll personally walk you through how to:

- ✔ **Position Yourself for Success** - *Discover what sets the pros apart from the wannabes so you can position yourself as a pro right from the start!*
- ✔ **Refine Your Unique Product** - *Discover what makes you awesome and how you can harness your uniqueness to market to the industry!*
- ✔ **Create Your Acting Toolbox** - *Get set up with all the tools you'll need to get started, from your headshot and resume, to your personal website!*
- ✔ **Market Your Acting Business** - *Learn where to find casting calls, how to submit for auditions and get yourself out there with confidence!*

By the end of our time together, you will have all the tools and knowledge you need to begin your own adventures as an actor in film and television!!

Click here to check it out and claim your free 1-month membership!

Let's do this together, my friend.

Laura

Laura Lieben's work as an actress has taken her to some of the most beautiful places in the world – including the coast of British Columbia, the mountains of Colorado, and a palace in Croatia, Europe!



She is passionate about meaningful stories, healthy lifestyle, horses, summer hikes, fuzzy blankets, butterflies, true friendships, deep conversation and belly laughs!

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