



Using the Casting Tools

These are the tools I built to take the fiddly parts off your hands — titling, fading, naming, framing. You concentrate on the acting; they handle the admin.

Before you press record on anything

The same four things go wrong on almost every tape I watch. Fix these once and you never have to think about them again.

EVERY SINGLE TIME

Landscape. Light on your face. Quiet room. Phone steady.

- 1 **Turn the phone sideways.** We always tape in landscape. The tools will stop you if you forget, but get in the habit anyway.
- 2 **Put the light in front of you, not behind.** A window you're facing beats any lamp. A window behind you turns you into a silhouette.
- 3 **Kill the noise.** Shut the door, turn off the fan, tell the house you're recording. Bad sound loses more tapes than bad picture.
- 4 **Prop the phone up.** A cheap tripod is the best twenty dollars you'll spend, but a stack of books or a shelf works too. Handheld reads as unprepared before you've said a word.

The Blank Slate Tool

For when you know what you want to say and just need to record it cleanly. The tool builds your title card, fades the picture up, and names the file properly on the way out.

- 1 Fill in **Name, Project, Role** and **Take**. These become your title card and your filename, so spell them the way the casting director wrote them.
- 2 Press **Continue**, then choose **720p or 1080p**. 1080p unless your connection is poor.
- 3 Press **Turn on camera** and allow access when your phone asks.
- 4 Turn the phone **landscape**, then press **Start Recording**.
- 5 The picture **fades up over four seconds**. Use them. That's your moment to settle, breathe, and be there before anyone can see you — so the first thing they do see is you already in it.

- 6 Press **Stop**, watch it back, then **Download** or **Re-record**. Do it as many times as you like.

Keep it short — thirty seconds to a minute. A slate is an introduction, not a monologue. Nobody has ever wished a slate were longer, and a short confident one reads far better than a long careful one.

The Directed Slate Tool

This one interviews you. The questions play out loud while you're recording, so you're answering rather than reciting — which is exactly how it should sound.

- 1 Add your **Name** (optional) and the **Project**.
- 2 Under **Pre-recorded questions**, tick the ones you want asked. Untick anything that doesn't apply to you.
- 3 In **Questions** you can reorder them, edit the wording, or add your own. Put the easy ones first so you're warm by the time the harder one lands.
- 4 Record the same way as the blank slate — landscape, fade up, no countdown.

If a question shows “not recorded yet — falls back to computer voice”, that's normal. The computer voice asks it instead. It sounds a bit flat, but it does the job of giving you something to react to, which is the whole point.

THE MAIN THING IS

Answer the question. Don't perform the answer.

The Casting Photos Tool

Takes the four standard casting shots, frames them, and names them correctly so you can send them straight on.

- 1 Add your **name** and the **project title** — whatever you were given for the casting. Check with the casting director if you're not sure.
- 2 Under **Photos required**, tick only the shots you were asked for. Close Up, Long Shot, Profile Left, Profile Right are the usual four.
- 3 Press **Take my photos**, then **Flip camera** if you need the back one. The back camera is always the better lens — use it if someone can help you.
- 4 Work down the list pressing **Take** for each shot. Retake, rename or download any of them, in any order, as many times as you like.

Close Up is face and shoulders. **Long Shot** is full length, standing, showing your whole body. The profiles are a straight turn to the side — not a pose, not a chin lift. Plain background, no filter, no makeup you wouldn't wear to school. We're looking for you, not a version of you.

The Casting Page

The big one. Everything a single casting needs in one place — photos, slate and scenes — so you can shoot the whole submission in one sitting without losing track.

- 1 Fill in your details: your **name** and the **project title**.
- 2 Put anything you were told to do into **Direction / Instructions** so it's in front of you while you shoot.
- 3 Tick the **photos required**, and set the **slate time limit** if the brief gave you one. This is a hard limit — the tool counts down, fades, and cuts. Know your time before you start rather than being surprised by it.
- 4 Work through each part in any order you like. **Back to Casting Session** returns you to the list every time, so nothing gets lost.
- 5 Download everything when you're done. For your Module 4 and 5 submissions, **Send it in** on the session screen takes you straight to the upload page.

Do the photos first. They're quick, they get you used to the camera, and by the time you reach the slate you've stopped feeling self-conscious.