FREE FROM SECRET ACTOR SOCIETY

9 audition room mistakes nobody warns you about

From my class Audition Mastery.

Hi, Kym here.

Most casting directors watch 10 to 15 seconds of an audition before deciding if you're right. So the small stuff counts.

None of the mistakes in this guide are about your acting. They're about how you walk in, how you take a redirect, and how you walk out.

And over the page: what to do with those first 15 seconds, so you're not standing there like a deer in headlights waiting for your first line.

Remember: book the room, not the part.

Kym

01 **"Sorry, I only just got the sides."**
They already know. Say nothing and do the work.

02 **Apologising.**
Don't. Not for the read, not for your take, not for being there.

03 **Selling yourself.**
Leave the credits on the resume. Focus on the character and be friendly.

04 **The bad-day story.**
Traffic, parking ticket… it didn't happen. They hear it from 20 actors a day.

05 **Perfume or spray deodorant.**
It lingers in casting rooms and can trigger allergies. Same goes for smoking before you go in.

06 **Moving the furniture.**
You're a guest in their space. Ask first: "Is it okay if I move this chair?"

07 **Reviewing your performance.**
Don't comment on it. "Thank you so much for having me in. Have a great day." Then go.

08 **Chasing the part.**
Book the room, not the part. Be kind to the assistant and the reader. That office could bring you in for 20 years.

09 **Leaving your stuff behind.**
I do this all the time. Don't be me.

> A weird redirect isn't a bad sign. Often it means you nailed it and they want to see if you can take direction.

Your first 15 seconds

Don't build up to the good stuff. Know what your character was doing, thinking and feeling just before the scene started. Not in the script? Make it up. Seriously.

I once had to be "setting up a soup kitchen table". My coach said: "Why don't you just pick up boxes?" So I moved boxes, left to right, while the scene started around me. When they asked me something, I stopped, wiped my hands off, and answered. I booked that role.

Just before the scene, I was doing

My opening beat (one simple thing)

I was thinking

The energy I start with

I was feeling

The energy I end with

My final unspoken thought (hold it until it's done)

EASY OPENING BEATS

Stacking boxes | Wiping down a bar | Taking off a jacket | Folding towels

This guide comes from **Audition Mastery**, one of the 18 masterclasses in The Journey at **secretactor.com**.