FREE FROM SECRET ACTOR SOCIETY

10 questions to ask before you say yes to a film

From my class How The Film Industry Works.

Hi, Kym here.

When you're new, the industry can feel like a maze with no map... a closed wall you're meant to somehow get over.

It isn't a wall. It's a business, and once you can see how the pieces fit together, you stop taking wrong turns.

Not every role is a good role. So this is the checklist I run before I say yes to any project.

Print it, tick the boxes, fill in the blanks. Then send it to the actor friend who says yes to everything ;)

Kym

01 **Is the script strong?**

On an indie, a feature script well over 120 pages often means structural problems. It'll run long.

02 **Who's the director? Who's the DP?**

Watch a couple of their previous projects first.

03 **Who are the other actors?**

Look them up too, the same way you look up the director and DP.

04 **Is it backed by a good film school or production company?**

A strong short, especially a top film school thesis film, can look far better on your reel than a feature.

05 **Is it union?**

I've done non-union films I never got to see, because they never came out.

06 **Is there production insurance?**

If you break your leg on set, someone needs to be responsible.

07 **Is it paid?**

That may or may not matter to you. I still do one pro bono short a year to support new filmmakers.

08 **Any nudity or stunts?**

Find out up front, and make sure it fits your personal and creative boundaries.

09 **Do you feel safe with these filmmakers?**

A warehouse half an hour out of town? Factor that in.

10 **For TV: which season is it?**

Two lines in season one might be a pass. Two lines in the final season? Maybe a yes.

Run it on your next offer

Project _____ Role _____

My answer: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Ask more questions first

After you say yes: do your research

Research the director, producers, DP and lead actors. Find common ground. It's respectful, and it gives you things to talk about.

ROLE	NAME	PAST WORK I WATCHED	COMMON GROUND
Director			
Producer			
DP			
Lead actor			
Lead actor			

This guide comes from **How The Film Industry Works**, one of the 18 masterclasses in The Journey at **secretactor.com**.