

TEN TOP TIPS FOR A GREAT ACTING HEADSHOT

1. Lots of Personality!! Many people may have a similar look to you but it's your look that makes it special to you.
2. Look like your headshot. This is not a time to be a beauty queen. You need to give casting directors and clients an accurate version of yourself.
3. Keep your clothing choices simple. Avoid patterns and prints in favour of solid colors. No white or very light pastels. Simple clothing helps the viewer see focus on YOU.
4. Spark the viewer's imagination. Don't dress like a nurse or a police officer. You want the viewer to be able to imagine you as many different characters from one picture.
5. Go easy on the makeup! Yes, you want to look your best for your headshot, but that does NOT mean layers of eye shadow and blush. If you can, hire a makeup artist. Keep in mind, you should pay close attention to what your makeup artist does so when you go to an audition or to meet an agent you can walk in the door looking as close to your picture as possible. This doesn't necessarily affect the men.
6. Don't show a lot of skin! Ladies, this means no excess cleavage. Gentlemen, keep your shirts on. Casting directors want to see you ... but not that much of you!
7. Keep in mind what kind of work you are trying to get. Is theatre your aim or is it for film or commercial work?
8. It's all about the eyes. Of course your smile is important, too, but the eyes can make or break your picture. Your eyes give you the opportunity to show the layers in your personality. Rather than thinking about the viewer looking at your picture, think about you looking at the viewer.
9. $\frac{3}{4}$ and full-length shots are very standard in Germany and less so in the UK or USA unless it's geared to commercial or modeling. However here the casting people seem to like wider shots so it's important to make sure you keep switched on your eyes can get lost.
10. Be yourself and show what makes you unique and that can include a large nose, small mouth or any detail that you probably dislike about yourself. You've got to love being you – especially in a stills shot.