10 steps to enjoying

GettingIntoActing.com

1.What do you want to get out of GIA - set your goals

No matter what career you are in, you need to establish where your path is taking you - and is that the path you want to be on? Acting is no different. Although you hopefully have a good support system, your personal path is just that - personal. When you make the decision to act - whether it is professionally or as a bit of a hobby, the decision is a big one that will have a stone impact on your life both financially and emotionally. What does that look like?

- The financial costs will include headshots and resumes, training, possible marketing costs such as joining legit casting sites, gas to get to the audition, time taken from work, some wardrobe pieces and possibly other items
- The emotional costs will include rejection, the stress of learning lines, feeling that your career is being controlled by others, and many more.

In a best case scenario, your immediate entourage will be supportive of you - they will give you the emotional support needed as well as the financial support. Even if they are supportive, the support may have an expiration date. That support you have may wane as the dollars go out in a way that is not proportionate to income. The support may dwindle when parents are not around family enough, when the goal seems to be more of a dream. These are things that should be discussed with those around you.

Those of you that don't have the support will usually end up going one of two ways:

- You will trudge ahead, no matter what. You'll take on another job to pay those extra expenses you have, you will find a night job so that days are available for auditions and time on set. The "I'll show you!" attitude can be highly motivating, but it may not be the most emotionally healthy way to handle the situation. You may want to come to terms with the idea that desire to be an actor is important to you, and that it is so important to you that you can happily live a full life in every other aspect of family dynamics.
  We often see this with families that have political or religious differences - but do not let those differences deter from their love for each other.
- You will decide that it is not what you're supposed to be doing and move on. There is no shame in this.

GettingIntoInto.com is the support from afar for the actor of any level of experience. We are there for you as a support if you are a regular on a TV set, and we are there for you if you have just recently decided to explore acting, but have no frame of reference. We are not 'star-makers' - ***and no one is***.What we ***are*** is a resource for legitimate guidance in every aspect of acting.

There are many elements to **GettingIntoActing.com** and we will often add new elements. We have a contact page - if you feel that you need to know something that is not covered, please let us know

2.Get the most from the weekly GIA blog

You have made an important first step to knowing what you need to do to be an actor, you have registered with **GettingIntoActing.com**. Every Monday, check your inbox for the latest blog. Every now and then, instead of a blog, there will be a video message. All of the blogs will be archived alphabetically, so you will always have access to past posts.
Each blog will cover a different topic and because I am a great believer in learning through experience, I will often share interesting stories that I feel are teaching tools about what to do and not do as an actor.
A blog may touch on a topic that you want to know more about. On our 'Actors Tools' page, we probably have a video, a booklet or a full course that will answer your questions. Arm yourself with the knowledge you need, If there is a topic that is not covered, please let us know on our 'Contact Us' page and will will do our best to give you the resources you need.

3.Listen to the podcasts

The podcasts are a huge inspiration, even if you are not an actor. The stories are raw and inspirational. Each of the guests has a unique philosophy of life and how they apply that philosophy to their careers and their everyday lives. What each guest has in common is that they have been quite introspective and have something to share that is not ego-based. Maybe that is what differentiates them from the crowd.
The stories in these podcasts may well inspire you to follow your 'in front of the camera' dreams. As you hear topics of interest, you can use GettingIntoActing.com as a resource for further detailed information through video, video courses and booklets.

4.Know what you're up against

There are so many wonderful things about developing an acting career:

- Creative fulfillment
- Positive feedback
- Networking with the acting community
- Personal growth
- Possible income

These positives are undeniable.

Here are things that you should be aware of - and they are all what you make of them. It is a mission statement of Getting Into Acting.com to give actors a balanced overview of what an acting career looks like. So here we go!

- There is no guarantee of success
- There are costs involved with becoming an actor: headshots, resume, classes, appropriate wardrobe, gas money to get to auditions, etc…
- You may not always have unconditional support from family and friends
- There are many scams to be aware of
- Be prepared for rejection
- You may be judge on aspects of your looks

5.Develop your parameters

Everyone has a set of parameters of what they are comfortable with, I'm sure that you are no exception. If you need time to examine what your boundaries are, do so. You may want to talk to friends, a spouse, a counsellor…just be very clear so that you can communicate those boundaries to an agent, manager or casting director.
There is no peer pressure or career that should make you compromise your values and ethics - and those values and ethics are your alone. Keep in mind

that the more you limit what you are or are not willing to do, the more possible roles you are eliminating.
Also, really think through what the objective of your values is. Let's use a Biblical example. If you identify as strong Christian and you are asked to audition for the story of Christ's life, you would probably be fine with it. Now think about if the role of Judas was proposed to you, Judas, who was a traitor to Christ. Think through this question very carefully. If your initial reaction is that you would not want to audition for the role of Jesus, think to yourself how the story of Christ can be told without including Judas.

Here's another example. You are a recovering drug addict. You have the opportunity to audition for the role of a drug dealer in a PSA (Public Service Announcement). The thought of really being a drug dealer is now abhorrent to you. Do you pass on the role? Remember that you would only be portraying a drug dealer to convey the negatives of doing drugs.

Here is a list of some things to consider:

- Nudity
- Swearing
- Smoking
- Drinking alcohol
- Drug use
- Animal cruelty
- Infidelity
- Violence
- Homosexuality
- Prostitution

You may come up with a whole other list of things that you are sensitive about.
What is difficult is that you may not be made aware of what exactly is in the full script - or even the scenes for your character - until you receive the script, or your 'sides,' though nudity does need to be disclosed ahead of an audition if it is a union (SAG-AFTRA) project.

6. Talk to a tax professional.

If you're going to commit to being an actor, take the time to check with a tax professional about what you may be able to write off of your taxes. Here are some line-items for you to discuss:

- Your CPA fees
- Headshot costs

- Resume costs
- Acting classes
- Fuel to get to auditions/meetings
- Hair
- Wardrobe
- Streaming media costs
- Moving to a bigger market
- Video/audio lighting for self-taping

And, of course, any purchases on **GettingInto Acting.com**…..

7. Invest in your career when you are ready.

To become and actor, you will at the very least need headshots and resumes. They don't need to cost a fortune, but they do need to be industry-standard, which I can guide you on.
You really should study too - take some acting courses. You need to know what's expected of you.
Create a realistic budget and see if your budget can be met with your current income. It could be a while before you start to see income for your acting - or it could happen the next day, though this is rare.
Take the time to think through your next move, then DO IT

8.The power of 'YES'

If you take an improv course, one of the first things you'll learn is the concept of "yes, and…". This concept is what keeps the scene moving ahead and the same is true for your acting career.
Most of you have heard of "fear of failure," but what I see quite often in actors is "fear of success." They may be excited about their new agent, headshots…their new life as an actor. But deep inside, many have an "impostor" syndrome. This means that they may call themselves actors, but their soul doesn't match their exterior bravado. This usually arises from a fear of rejection - the person may feel embarrassed if they get an audition but don't get the role. They dread people saying: "How did the audition go? Did you get a callback? Did you get the part?" It may just be easier to say that you can't go to the audition because you forgot a dental appointment, you have a snuffy nose - or more honestly, you are just mortified that "you are not enough."
This is where YES comes into play. Most working actors are excited to be on a set - whether it is a student film, a local commercial, or a SAG-AFTRA project. Though callbacks tend to go in cycles, there will typically be a ratio of many

auditions without a callback for every audition with a callback. This is the norm. You absolutely have to have a positive attitude about it all - “on to the next one.” If you knew how serendipitous casting can be, it would make it much easier to just keep moving ahead without looking back.
You may not get a callback because you’re too tall, too short, too good-looking, too clean-cut, etc…. It is not always because of your talent, though a very strong preparation is key to a good audition and therefore a callback.
If you start to take rejection personally, it will create a chip on your shoulder that will look like a boulder to the casting director. Such attitudes are tangible. So wake up every day looking for your next opportunity, and grab the bull by the horns when it happens. Go into life with a YES attitude!

9. Consult privately with Catrine McGregor

Though I tried to be clear about all of the above, I’m sure that you still have questions that I did not answer - or you may need more concise information on some of the points I’ve made. Please go to my calendar on **GettingIntoActing.com** and book a private consultation. Remember to write down all your questions!

10. Take your next step!

You are now ready to start!
Break a leg.