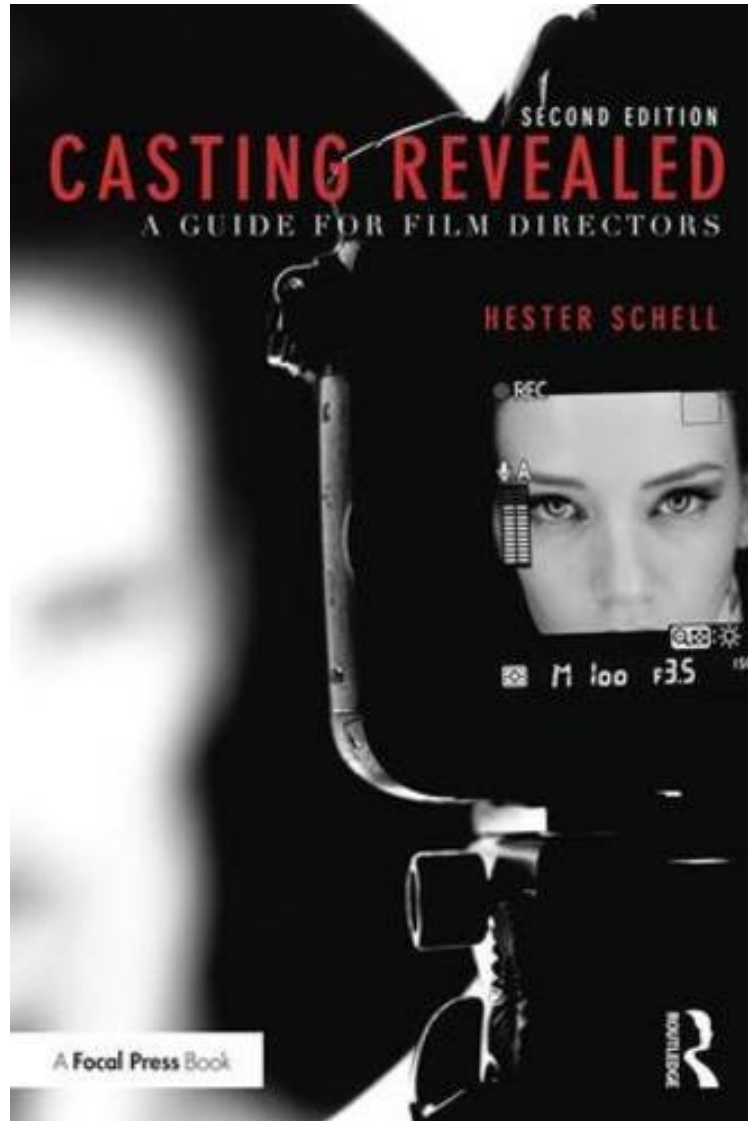


## Casting Revealed: A Guide for Film Directors

*Hester Schell*

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#144881 in Books imusti 2016-09-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.90 x .60 x 5.90l, .0 #File Name: 113894534X218 pagesFocal Press | File size: 16.Mb

**Hester Schell : Casting Revealed: A Guide for Film Directors** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Casting Revealed: A Guide for Film Directors:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Valuable Resource For Producers, Directors, Screenwriters and Actors!By Gabriell DeBear PayeCASTING REVEALED:Book Review by Gabriell DeBear Paye."Casting Revealed" got me wrapped up in the excitement of casting and movie making while providing a much clearer idea of what is entailed!It is a practical guide not only for directors but also useful for actors and screenwriters with lots of quotes and examples. Directors will realize that casting is perhaps the most essential element in making a successful movie.

Actors will learn what casting directors are looking for (such as having a pleasant personality so others will enjoy working with them) and some specifics such as how to present themselves (resumes, head shots, demo reels, etc.). Great examples of marketing materials are shown in the book. As a screenwriter I initially didn't think that it would be relevant to what I'm doing, but as I read it, I realized that it's important for me to develop roles that will attract great talent and to know the entire process. The book points out that (after a good screenplay) the selection and quality of the actors are of paramount importance to making a great movie. They will make or break it. In the words of Alfred Hitchcock (quoted in the book), "Seventy-five percent of directing is casting." And this is not only true of individual actors, but of how good the chemistry between actors is so that the whole movie will shine. The author provides a step by step guide on how to do casting from how to select actors for parts, set up timelines, casting meetings and callbacks, and finally contracts (for both union and non union actors). It tells what to look for during an audition and giving actors chances to ad lib, do scenes over and why it is important to not to make rash decisions. This is an indispensable guide for anyone who wants to direct movies. It's full of suggestions that actors will really appreciate. For example, it suggests that you don't keep actors waiting and let actors know where they stand on a timely basis. If only all directors followed this directive! The book talks about the pros and cons of hiring experienced SAG (Screen Actors Guild) actors vs. lesser known non union ones that will help directors make wise decisions based on your budget and time constraints. The ending provides a useful list of applicable websites, contact information and terminology to get you started.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Like any other filmmaker

By Don Schwartz  
Zoe Saldana, Stephen Lang, and Sam Worthington, all relatively unknowns, were cast as three of the principals in "Avatar". Although it was a foregone conclusion that the film would do well at the box office by virtue of James Cameron's track record, few predicted it would break the record of "Titanic" becoming the most commercially successful film in history. I attribute this financial ride to interstellar space directly to Cameron's focus on casting. Like any other filmmaker, Cameron had to struggle--in this case, with the studio--to get just the right actors to portray the story's human drama and character arcs. No amount of technical artistry and visual beauty could replace the story's human foundation. The principle applies universally--how a story of any scale is cast can and does make the difference between success (both artistic and commercial) and failure. How to get the right actors into a story's roles is the subject of "CASTING REVEALED: A Guide for Film Directors" which reveals and benefits from Hester Schell's lifetime of experience in an impressive variety of jobs in the worlds of theatrical and on-camera production--acting, directing, producing, writing, teaching, coaching, and, of course, casting. "CASTING REVEALED: A Guide for Film Directors" provides crucial, must-have information for producers, directors, and casting directors on the process of casting for on-camera productions--with a focus on films. Walking the reader through each and every aspect of the casting process, Schell provides a cornucopia of tips and tricks to support the reader in doing a thoroughly professional job as efficiently as possible. In the book's introductory pages Schell makes a strong, incontrovertible case for the vital role casting plays in the production of an excellent film. Media production is intrinsically multi-dimensional. Every facet must be approached with total commitment. Drop one facet--equipment, poor logistics, unqualified crew, etc., etc., etc.--and what could be a winning work of art fails to live up to its potential, or fails to live. Writing for both the experienced and novice filmmaker, Schell flashes a bright yellow warning light if we are cavalier about casting our projects. Given a tight focus on casting, a film's acting will do justice to the story. "Great acting is transformative," Schell writes, "it is the action, guts, and backbone of your story. When you have the right actor in the right role, your entire film will take off." When asked why she wrote "CASTING REVEALED: A Guide for Film Directors," reflecting on her own experience as an actor, Hester spoke with great passion, "I wrote this book because directors really need help, they need guidance. Casting is a skill set that hasn't been put out there to the directing public because we [directors] put so much trust in casting directors for making decisions. Over the decades, as an actor, I know that I have been denied the opportunity to audition for a role that I thought I was right for because my agent didn't submit me because she or he didn't think I was right for the role; or, the casting director didn't pass me on to the call-back process. So, the middle-men and women in the industry are eliminating choices from the directors. I want to empower directors to really get in there, work with the actors, understand how the acting process works so that THEY can make better choices, and make sure that everybody in every role is 110% exactly what they want in every role." By virtue of her experience and accomplishments, Hester Schell simply cannot write a book about casting without including fundamental information about many other aspects of production--especially pre-production. Readers, therefore, benefit greatly from not only her highly detailed, comprehensive information about the casting process, but also critical information about other aspects of production. "CASTING REVEALED: A Guide for Film Directors" contains a few 'special features'--a Glossary of Common Film Terms, a humorous "The Parts of Speech", and a Bibliography and Resources section.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Actors: Buy This Book Now!

By Tracy E. Blackstone  
Having retired from my Day Job, I am now pursuing an acting career and this book has been absolutely invaluable. Yes, it was written 'for directors', but any actor will benefit hugely from reading it. Hester highlights all the Gotchas, the pitfalls, the mistakes an actor can make quite inadvertently during the casting process. Her resume example alone, complete with advice about headshots, is worth the price of the book. My favorite chapter is 12, "Friends Chime In" -- directors talk about good and bad experiences with actors, and actors also talk about their good

and bad experiences with directors. Reading this book will give an aspiring actor a working knowledge not only of how directors think, but of the critical Industry Standards an actor needs to know in order to be taken seriously. Buy it! Read it!

Casting is an essential component of any film or video project, but the core skill-set needed to cast effectively is little understood. *Casting Revealed: A Guide for Film Directors* is a straightforward manual on the art and craft of casting. Here, director Hester Schell offers her insider perspective on casting workflows, industry standards, finding actors, running auditions, what to look for in a performance, contracts, and making offers. This new edition has been updated with fresh interviews with casting directors, full color head shots, new information about online video submissions, and a companion website featuring forms, contracts, and sample scenes for auditions. Gain a fuller understanding of the misunderstood art and craft of casting actors for film and video production. Learn to find the right actors for any production, run auditions, interview actors, effectively judge performances and video submissions, evaluate suitability for a role, discover what it is you need from an actor, view headshots, draft contracts, make offers, and navigate current industry standards, unions, and procedures. This new edition has been updated to include full color sample head shots, new content on online video submissions, listings of casting websites, film resources, and film commissions and a companion website featuring interviews with celebrated casting directors from New York, Portland, Boston and Austin, necessary forms, sign-in sheets, contracts, and sample scenes for auditions.

"I wish I had Hesters book when I first started in Hollywood. It would have saved me a lot of heartache because it spells-out in clear and concise language the necessary tools for successful casting every filmmaker needs to know. Reading this book reminded me of how much the Academy needs to award an Oscar for casting directors. Because casting is an art form, and Hesters book is the best Ive read on demystifying the process." Jon James Miller, producer, Pooka Productions/Gravity-Squared Entertainment "While nothing can replace the benefits of hiring an experienced casting director, this book has some great insights for beginning filmmakers." Lana Veenker CSA Eryn Goodman CSA, Cast Iron Studios: Wild, NBC/Grimm, Twilight "Hester, I have to compliment you on taking on this mystery of a job and making it so enjoyably clear as to what we do as a process and how we take young people who are interested in filmmaking - who dont understand the first thing about how the casting process is done - making it enjoyable to read and very informative of how this works and how they can use their time and their effort and money to the best of their ability to get good talent." Carolyn Pickman, CP Casting, Boston: Mystic Pizza, Black Mass, Straight Outta Compton, Gone Baby Gone "Expect an informative lesson on the rules of the game, with strict outlines from every phase of production. Whip out your pens and highlighters and start jotting down notes, because this will surely be on the desks of up-and-coming writers, actors and directors for years to come." Kyle Rupprecht, MovieMaker Magazine, on the first edition of *Casting Revealed* About the Author Hester Schell is a recovering academic, award-winning director, master acting teacher and author. Hester has been either in front of the camera or part of a crew, on stage or directing for over 45 years. The first feature she acted in, shot in Portland, Oregon, won an Oscar. Hester took a side-trip into academia, graduating highest honors with a Master of Fine Arts in directing and landing a tenured position teaching theatre and film at a California college. She has a column at [SCRIPTMAG.com](http://SCRIPTMAG.com) and her articles have appeared in *CineSource*, *Movie Maker Magazine* and *Coastviews Magazine*. Schell is a contributing writer to Sherry Ellis and Laurie Lamsons *NOW WRITE: Writing Exercises from Top Writers and Teachers*, 2010, Tarcher/Penguin, and *HOW TO BE A WORKING ACTOR*, 5th Edition, 2010, Watson/Guption Publication. Shes a member of the Screen Actors Guild/American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, and the Harvard Square Screen Writers. Speaking engagements include Londons British Film Institute, Burbanks The Writers Store, Drama Books in New York, Connecticut Screenwriters Association, and the San Francisco Black-American Film Festival. For more information, find Hester Schell at [IMDb.com](http://IMDb.com), the Internet Movie Database, or [hesterschellcreative.com](http://hesterschellcreative.com). Hester is available for workshops and seminars on a variety of topics, and is interested in hearing from producers and writers with comedies. She is finishing a novel and working on several scripts with roles for middle aged and senior women.