What should be your process to find the strongest actors for your project?

Using a casting director.

What is the job of the casting director?

They sift through all the submissions to find a select group of the strongest actors for each role. They will typically do the first round of auditions to find the best actors for callbacks.

What is the best way to handle the audition process?

Be positive towards the actors as they are sensitive. Give them the chance to be creative, then say that was great but can we try it this other way for an adjustment.

What is the purpose of a table read?

So everyone can meet and the actors can get into character. I would imagine this is the time that the director and writer find ways to align what they had in mind for each character to what the actor is giving them.

What type of language is most useful when directing actors on-set, and why?

Action words (verbs) rather than adjectives. Characters should DO things rather than explain them. Adjectives lead to general false behavior.

Why is it important to understand the purpose of a scene BEFORE discussing it with your actors?

So they don’t waste their time preparing in the wrong way.

What is the purpose of Uta Hagen’s "six questions a director must be able to answer"?

To find the purpose of the scene and how the actor should make their choices.

Why is it important that you as the director, as well as the actor, understand a character’s background when playing a scene, even if that background is not explicitly stated in the script?

Again this will dictate the choices they make and how they play the character. The director has the vision for the picture and probably a better understanding of the character’s background.

How do you keep actors from getting bored of doing the same thing over and over again?

Let them move around in between scenes, go get coffee, etc. Use stand-ins so they aren’t standing around all day.

Write 500 words on your own philosophy of working with actors. How do you plan to handle them? What will be your process?

Obviously every actor is different so it will take a bit of time to feel them out and see what would work best for them. Having been an actor myself I feel I will be able to relate to their situations well. I don’t respond well to micromanaging but some people prefer it. I would think that a lot could be solved early on in the process by aligning goals for the picture. To do this one should discuss the character in depth with each actor.

Being a writer as well, I have some very specific things that I am looking for in each character. The initial auditions should be kind of a free for all I think to see what they might have pictured for the character based on their sides and the character description I made. Then an adjustment will give me an idea for how well they take direction.

I can really only speculate from there as I haven’t shot anything yet. If I noticed something changes from the auditions to when we are shooting, I would show them their audition video and remind them why they were hired in the first place.