

BLANCA VALDEZ CASTING

Some Advice from Show Business Professionals.

The cheapest way to learn these things is to read this page. To learn them by experiencing them personally will cost you plenty of money and lots of heartache.

ANYONE WHO ASKS YOU TO PAY TO AUDITION IS A SCAMMER.

These types of people cannot get you a job. No reputable agent would send a client to these people, No reputable Production Company would knowingly hire these people. Never pay for an audition, it just encourages them to scam the next person.

BEWARE OF "AGENTS" WHO REQUIRE THAT YOU PAY THEM FOR REPRESENTATION, SIGN UP FEES, PICTURE FEES, TRAINING FEES, OR ANYTHING ELSE.

Talent agents make money when you work and that is it. Period. Any other requirements that you give them money indicates that you are dealing with a non standard company. You should be able to get your own pictures and take training wherever you want. Good agents will give you suggestions as to where to go for pictures etc. but they will not require you to go to a certain photographer. Good agents will tell you that you need training, but they will not require that you pay them money for classes. Remember, an agent should only make money when you work.

Oh...and one more thing on this...if you are at a "casting call" at one of the "schools" that promises to act as your "agent"...notice that NO ONE is rejected. Apparently, miraculously,...EVERY ONE of the people who decides to respond to the ad or the radio spot is a GREAT ACTOR with a TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL.. All you have to do is pay for some classes and you will be on your way!

NOT ALL "ACTING CLASSES" ARE CREATED EQUAL.

Do a google search on any agency or organization or person who you are considering doing business with. The Better Business Bureau www.bbb.com keeps reports of the worst offenders and scammers. You can also find articles at www.wikipedia.com

If you are tempted to buy a series of classes or some other training...be very careful what you sign. Remember that there is no standard "cooling off period" during which you can get your money back if you change your mind. There are some protections for some types of purchases...including "seminars". A discussion of those laws can be seen [HERE](#). The best thing you can do is to not sign up for anything that you have not investigated fully and decided it to be worth the money. Use the internet. Google the name of the thing you are considering purchasing in quotation marks...and add the word complaint outside of the quotation. If you decide to go ahead with the purchase then be sure to read and understand the contract that you will be asked to sign. There may be language in there that will allow you a way out if you are not satisfied. Don't be afraid to ask about the specifics of any such language. Such things are always very time sensitive and you may need to send a certified letter before some number of days has expired. If you do get shafted just get what you can from the class (or whatever) and move on. Tell people about your experience. Sunlight is the best antiseptic. Learn from the past... and spread the word to other people so they don't get pulled in too.

BEWARE OF ACTING "SCHOOLS" THAT DON'T TEACH YOU TO ACT!

If they have you walking on a runway like a model and that is it, then you should really question what they are "teaching" you. If you are taking a class just so you can say that you did...you will probably not do yourself any good. You can tell when you are learning something. If you are not learning...get your money back. If you insist, they have to give your money back. It is the law.

ACTING SCHOOLS CANNOT LEGITIMATELY BE IN THE BUSINESS OF BEING AN "TALENT AGENCY".

If a school says that they can get you work...but first you have to pay for classes....well, you know what is going on right? If they tell you that you are the best thing since Olivier and that Paramount wants youbut first you need some training.....you know what is going on right? If they tell you that all you need is the right headshots and you will be sure to get a pilot...you know what is going on right???

Trust your instincts and do not waste your money. It only encourages them.

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BEWARE OF ANYONE WHO GUARANTEES YOU SUCCESS.

There is no such thing as a guarantee, no matter what. If they say "Sign this and I guarantee that you will get commercial jobs" then you really have to question their honesty. I will say it again; in this business there is no such thing as a guarantee.

BEWARE OF SIGNING ANYTHING.

Signing your name is a very big deal. If you sign an agreement the legal system will probably require you to honor that agreement. You must read and understand EVERYTHING that you put your name on. Anyone who pressures you to sign something immediately, and/or will not give you a copy to take with you for review or to show to your lawyer before signing, is hiding something. If the person asking you to sign something asks you to trust them, do not trust them. The fact that they are asking you to sign a promise means that they do not trust you...so why should you trust them?. Ask lots of questions. Make sure that everything is filled out and that you get an accurate copy of what you signed. Make sure that they sign whenever/whatever you sign. Check the dates. Anyone who tells you that any of this advice is unnecessary is ignorant, uninformed, or untrustworthy. BE VERY CAREFUL WITH YOUR NAME.

BEWARE OF LONG TERM CONTRACTS.

Don't sign any contract--with anyone---for anything--- for longer than you are comfortable with. In this business a year or two is a LONG time. Five years is basically forever. Give yourself the ability to change your mind by only signing short-term agreements.

ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY.

You cannot blame your agent or your manager for the bad things that you do and expect anyone to take you seriously. If your agent or manager pressures you to do something unethical or something that you know that you should not do...DON'T DO IT. Your agent and manager are part of your professional entity, part of the professional YOU.. If they convince you to do something, it is just as if you decided to do it yourself. You DID decide to do it yourself. You are directly responsible for all of the things that you do no matter who told you to do them. Be very careful who you choose to make decisions for you because the decisions that they make reflect directly upon you. Respect your instincts. You will get much further on a good reputation than you will on a bad one.

AGAIN, TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS.

If someone asks you to meet them for an "audition" and it feels strange then check it out first. Take someone with you when you meet strangers. Use logic to protect you. If it seems to good to be true then it probably is. If you feel like you don't trust a person then find out why you feel that way.