

# BLANCA VALDEZ CASTING

## Advice from the Parents of Future Child Actors

In my experience, when a child is brought in to me because he or she is "dying to act" it is generally more true that they are there because the parents want the child to act. I know that because the children cannot drive, cannot afford pictures, and have really no idea what they are getting themselves into. And that is O.K., at least in the beginning. It is part of your job as a parent to expose your child to new things and new experiences.

Pursuing acting with your child is a good way to help your child develop himself or herself into a rounded and confident person. The pursuit of acting can spur your child to do well in school because they will be forced at an early age to compete with other children in a very cutthroat business. Cuteness counts for little after the first couple of years, after that it is professionalism, acting ability, charisma, talent and all of the rest of those things that come from dedicated hard work and unwavering parental love and support. These are the same good traits that will serve your child well in ANY future.

If you, as a parent, are willing to provide a good and secure home life for your child, are ready to drive your child to audition after audition without any promise of any reward except that of seeing your child compete; if you are willing to work hard to convince your child that their repeated inability to book a commercial is not in any way a reflection of their worth as a person; if you are willing to help your child acquire the never ending additional training that will help them to compete with the other actors in their age group, and finally; if you are willing to write it all off as good personal development when the child decides that sports or school are more important...then acting may be something that you might like doing with your child.