

Self Tapes

TV/THEATRICAL/STREAMING

What to Know About Self-Tapes for the TV/Theatrical/Streaming Contracts

As self-tapes have become the industry standard, it has necessitated new parameters around what is acceptable. The union will continue to review these guidelines in future negotiation cycles.

Please note: The following provisions apply when a particular performer is requested to submit a self-tape versus a casting notice that is accepting self-tape submissions.

- Sides cannot be more than 8 pages for a first self-tape, and not more than 12 for a second or subsequent self-tapes.
- Performers will have 48 hours* (excluding weekends and holidays); minors will have 72 hours.
- Performers cannot be asked to memorize — performers may hold sides or read from a prompter. If asked to memorize, this is not a self-tape and is instead considered a virtual audition (see definitions below).
- Accommodations will be provided for performers with disabilities, seniors and minors.
- Increased transparency on whether the role has been cast (agent or performer may request this information).
- Cannot be asked to use paid editing software or specific equipment.
- Limits on slates.
- No nudity.
- No stunts.
- Dancers must be provided music and choreography limited to four eight-beat counts, performable in an 8x8 space; solos only.
- Secured storage of audition tapes, meaning only people with a legitimate business interest may have access.
- Consent for public use.
- Performers must be provided the opportunity for a live virtual audition (such as via Zoom) or an in-person audition in lieu of a self-tape with producer (scheduled at the producer's discretion) making available a window of time on a first-come, first serve basis.

Performers must not be charged a fee to access general casting calls or given preferential treatment on the basis of paying a fee.

Casting services may still have paid services, tiered services, etc., available for self-submissions.

**These timelines may not apply during exigent casting situations (e.g., casting a replacement or casting a role that was newly added to the script). Casting should specify these exceptions on the breakdown. If the breakdown does not specify the exigent circumstance or if a performer has any reason to believe that the exception does not apply, contact the union. The 48-hour turnaround time applies when casting sends the notice to the performer or their agent (who works on behalf of the performer). We suggest discussing with your agent the best way to communicate when a self-tape has been requested, so you, the member, have as much time as possible to prepare.*

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Self-Tapes: When a performer tries out for a role by recording themselves and submits to casting their performance with the option of holding sides or reading from a prompter. If casting instructed the performer to memorize the lines or breakdown, then this is an audition.

Virtual Interviews: When a performer tries out for a role virtually in the presence of casting and has the option of holding sides or reading from a prompter.

Virtual Auditions: When a performer tries out for a role virtually in the presence of casting reciting sides or a script that the performer memorized pursuant to casting's instruction.

QUESTIONS?

Contact the Entertainment Contracts Department at EntContractsInfo@sagaftra.org or (323) 549-6828.

Please note, the provisions regarding self-tape auditions and interviews for commercials may vary.