



Act Now!

LA's most exclusive
Networking company

December
2007

Featured Client of the Month! Bashir Gavriel!

Los Angeles, also known as "The City of Angels" is where the dreamers come to dream. Any day of the week, you'll find thousands of us tooling around the city with stars in our eyes and a hope in our hearts that we'll be the next big thing. A year and a half ago, I was one of those dreamers, venturing here with nothing but 2 suitcases and a guitar. But I learned very quickly, that this ol' dream of mine was going to be hard to come by. It's funny, now that I think about it, the only plan I had when I moved here, was simply just to get a series regular role on NBC. It couldn't be that hard right?



Bashir Gavriel

Cont. Page 3



Interview with Casting Director

Stephanie Laffin

By: Kenna Dean, Owner of Act Now!

How long have you been with your current office?

I have worked with Amy Lippens for four years.

What projects are you currently casting?

We are currently casting the 4th season of "House".
We're also casting a pilot.

Cont. Page 2

December Successes!

(P)- straight to Producers

BOOKED!

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Aisha Kabia | Chuck |
| Patrick Brown | Las Vegas |
| Mark Doerr | Space Plane |
| Heather Sher | House |

READ FOR!

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Colleen Foy | 12Miles of Bad Road |
| | Scrubs |
| Matt Lange | The Young & The Restless |
| Maklen Makhloghi | Criminal Minds |
| Inger Tudor | The Oaks (new pilot) |
| Jeanine Anderson | True Blood |
| | Life |
| David Stamps | The Game |
| Deanna Smith | Life |
| Jay Seals | Life |
| Nicole Stauhton | Criminal Minds |
| David Appelbaum | Criminal Minds (P) |
| Helene McCardle | Criminal Minds (P) |
| Mary Carrig | Life |
| Michelle Josette | Criminal Minds |
| | Space Plane |
| Kosha Patel | Space Plane |
| Troy Vincent | Space Plane |
| Scott Sheldon | Life |
| Glenda Morgan Brown | House |
| Mark Doerr | House |
| Alli Steinberg | House |
| Jonathan Aube | CSI:NY (P) |
| | Hallmark MOW |
| Philip Asta | Pepsi Commercial |
| Evan Zalaha | Pepsi Commercial |
| Sean Pritchett | Pepsi Commercial |
| Deanne Cordano | Viagra Commercial |
| Dufflyn Lammers | Viagra Commercial |

*Please remember to let your consultant know of any success stories!

Act Now! is always looking for help. If you're interested in being an intern, night monitor or parking garage attendant, please call us at 818-285-8522.



Stephanie Laffin cont. from pg. 1

Can you tell me about your background and how you got into casting?

I have a degree in theatre from Mount Holyoke College. I moved to New York after I graduated and started working for Stuart Howard and Howard Meltzer.

What are some of your biggest do's and don'ts?

DO'S:

Always have your headshot on you. You never know who you're going to run into. And if you think your headshot is a pain to carry around...get a postcard.

Always update your contact information on Breakdown Services, IMDB...anywhere that someone would be looking to find you. If we can't find you...well...we can't audition you.

Be prepared...do your research...make a decision about the character and have confidence in your choices. Come and be great!

DON'T:

Please look like your headshot...DON'T be that person who NEVER changes his/her headshot...have old headshots...that they don't resemble.

Don't walk into the audition room saying "oh, I just got this...I was running late..." All of those "dog ate my homework" excuses for being unprepared just make the actor seem unprepared.

How beneficial do you find workshops in your casting process?

I think workshops are a great way to meet new people and see their work.

Do you attend theatre? Stand-Up Comedy? Showcases other than workshops?

I go to the theatre and sometimes I do go to standup.

Are there any tips you can give an actor who is just starting out in the LA market?

Find a way to meet other actors...take a class, do workshops, check out the student films that are currently casting at USC & UCLA.

Talk about headshots. This seems to always be a big challenge for an actor. What advice can you give them about getting the "right" shot.

Your headshot should look like YOU. And by YOU...I mean, you on your best hair and make up day...you on the day that you are most confident...you in an outfit that you are supremely comfortable and confident in. The headshot you have should truly represent YOU and you should LOVE it.

Let's say an actor has the right look for a role, however doesn't necessarily have the credits you are looking for: how much can good training play into the equation of whether or not you'll be getting them in?

We love training...sometimes people are new to acting, but they are currently studying which shows that they are developing their skills. We're always willing to



Stephanie Laffin, cont. from pg. 2

take risks....and if someone is not right for something that we are casting that day, they might be right for something else in the future.

Do you respond to actors whose work you have not seen when they submit directly to you with a headshot/resume or postcard?

Sometimes...I do love postcards....they're a quick way to let me know what you're up to...who you've auditioned for, what you've booked, who you're studying with.

What is the best way for an actor to keep in touch with you?

I like postcards....but I like them to have valuable information on them- how we met, when we met, if you've auditioned for something, if you're in a new class, if you've started working with new representation.

When do you watch reels? For which roles?

I watch reels that are posted on breakdown services. I want an actor to be responsible...your picture, your updated resume as well as contact information, and a 90 second to two minute demo reel that shows you off. I look at reels if I might not be completely familiar with someone's work. I also like any reels that can be emailed to me or that are some how electronically available...anyway that I can just watch someone's work immediately is great.

Thank you for your time and honesty Stephanie. I look forward to seeing you again soon!

**Kenna Dean
Owner, Act Now**

Bashir Gavriel, cont. from pg. 1

Hell, I was a fashion model for one of the worlds most elite modeling agencies, so at least I had that going for me. I even went to nursing school to help support myself, so how hard could it really be?

Truth be told, I had no real formal training. I did a couple silly college plays and read a few books, but I wasn't one of those classically theater trained actors you hear about. I had never heard of Stanislavsky (might want to check the spelling on that one) or Uta Hagen, I had no idea what SAG was or what the difference was between a manager and an agent. All I had was a drive to succeed and an open ear and sometimes, that's all it takes. Anais Nin, a world renowned poet was once quoted to say, "Good things come to those that hustle." Being a fan of hers, I took that quote to heart and hit the ground running. Within 8 months and a resume that didn't have much, I landed a manager, a theatrical, commercial and a voiceover agent and all of them were top of the line. Granted, I still didn't know the difference between a manager and an agent, but at least I had them. NBC, here I come!

With great headshots and a killer agent I was auditioning like mad. Any and every show that was looking for an African-American male, early 20's I was reading for. But, 3 months in, I had yet to book a single show, let alone go to producers. Something was wrong. One of my friends recommended going to Act Now! and doing a few CD workshops to help build my auditioning muscle and more importantly start to build relationships with some of the people I'd eventually like to work for. So, I did. Instantly, there was a change. I got a better feel as to





Bashir Green, cont. from pg. 3

what casting directors were looking for in an audition. What to do, what not to do. What choices to make and how to commit to them in whole as the character. I began learning and meeting so many great actors, it forced me to be better. This past October 19, 2007 marked my first year going out as a represented actor and my, was it a blast. I was featured in Back Stage West for booking a pilot that shot in Fiji for a month with no representation at the time. And with consistent scene study from Lesly Kahn and the casting director workshops I've done for Act Now! I go to producers at least 75% of the time. In fact, every workshop I've taken at Act Now!, has lead me to a producers session.

So, not only have I grown as an actor, but I understand the audition process much more than I did before. More importantly, I no longer fear the casting directors or the casting process. It's my job to reach producers and to do the best of my ability. Anything after, is in God's hands and a coffee cup and that's about it. Get up and make it happen people... "It's the sacrifices we make, that prove to God and the universe just what we're willing to lose...in order to gain." That one is my quote by the way ;O)

Bashir Gavriel

Thank you so much Bashir! Just goes to show you that if you combine a positive attitude with pro-activity, good things happen. We are proud of you and wish you continued success!

**Love,
The Act Now gals!**

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
All of us at Act Now! wish you and yours a terrific
Holiday Season! . . .see you at the Pilot Season Party, Jan 12th!*

