

Hosting is a whole different world than acting. THAT IS WHY ALL GREAT ACTORS DON'T MAKE GREAT HOSTS. That is also why every person walking the streets of Los Angeles can't be a host unless they have a voice. Find your voice and you'll find your brand.

### **What's the first thing I need to have to start going out as a host?**

REELS: you MUST have it. The hosting demo reel is your calling/business card in the host world. Let's get a couple things straight: you are not a host unless you have a reel. Now, here is the good thing in hosting: you can actually create a reel, and it's 100 percent acceptable.

What do you mean by "create a reel?" In acting or commercials you can't create one. It's either, you have one or you don't. As an actor, your demo reel comes from professional work that you've shot. As a host, you need a camera, an editor and your own ingenuity.

But wait! YOU CAN'T MAKE A REEL UNLESS YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE AS A HOST AND WHAT IT IS YOU WANT PEOPLE TO BUY FROM YOU as a host, and I don't mean buy as if you are selling shit on an infomercial (but I will do a brief chapter on infomercials so hold on to your hat!), what I mean is for you to do what you are good at. Even me writing this book, haven't I shown you a little of who I am by the way I write and express my opinion? YOUR OPINION, YOUR POINT-OF-VIEW IS YOUR BUSINESS CARD.

So for example, if you are a political junkie then do some man on the street stuff on the UCLA campus. Go and ask students who they are going to vote for, by posing questions and by having answers that are indicative of your point of view, you are showing people that you aren't just a pretty face asking questions. So if Current TV is looking for a new on-air host and they want them to have political knowledge, they can see by those 60 seconds on your reel that you do.

### **Can I use my friends or family in my reel?**

Well, who the hell else are you going to ask?

### **What if my friend(s) or family member(s) are people on tv?**

Hello! It's like you're sitting on a small bar of gold! So, yeah use what ever you can.

Now remember your reel will always improve and always get better as you continue to WORK.

### **What sort of things should I have on my reel?**

When you go out to shot your reel, do some co-hosting too, and man on the street stuff. Make sure you show off you're versatility while letting your personality and your point of view come through with these various bits.

We, the casting directors, the producers, the men and women in charge, can't guess who you are as a host or what skills or knowledge you possess, you must show us. Buyers have no imagination or time for that matter, so hit us over the head with who you are in your 3 minute made up reel, and yes I said "three minutes." especially if it's made up. If you have a real long body of host work your reel can be longer because you deserve it. You have worked hard for that body of work but still don't make it a PT Anderson film because like I said "who has time anymore?"\*

\*As a manager, I want to see who you are in the first minute. Don't waste my time. I just don't have it. I'm going through thousands of people a week to find one or two. And, I can tell, just like the network can tell, just like the folks at home can tell, if you haven't done your homework and you suck, or worse? You are unprepared.

Most of the time you will have one shot with a casting director to impress them w/ your opinion and over all self.

Television is a small world; Hosting, even smaller. Now with all the new cable channels and the burgeoning new world of the internet webisodes, there are so many more opportunities. Reality TV is not going to just go away. You could be a carpenter a fisherman a cook a motorcycle maker, hell these days you could be just a good looking person and get a job, but put together a good-looking person with a personality and you can have a career.

There are a lot of hosting jobs out there but there are also a lot of roads being laid too. Think about it. This goes back to when we talked about doing what you love, doing what the audience wants and doing it even if you hate it because you don't want to go out and dig a ditch in the 100\* heat.

Nobody wants to be dull and boring personality. Brands are what people want to buy, including the networks. Think about it. There are so many channels and so many opportunities. So you must hire a person or a brand who is going to stand out and create a buzz about them.....What's your buzz?  
fill in the blank\_\_\_\_\_