

How to get started as an actor in Miami

Take classes

You're starting in the right place. Going in strong with skills learned in classes is the best way to hit the ground running and make a good impression.

Get headshots

Your headshot is your calling card. It says a lot about you as an actor. An agent, casting director or producer uses headshots to evaluate an actor in the following ways:

- A professional headshot shows that you are serious about acting and are willing to make an investment in your career
- An accurate headshot (one that really looks like you) will help a casting director determine if you fit the role
- A good headshot showcases your personality

Headshot photographers:

Lynn Parks

7885 NW 55 Street

Miami, FL 33166

(305) 639-6767

<http://www.lynnparks.com/>

Bob Lasky

1543 Northeast 123rd Street

North Miami, FL 33161-6029

(305) 891-0550

<http://www.boblasky.com/>

Make sure and get your headshots printed by a professional headshot reproduction shop. I use Photoscan out of Orlando:

<http://www.photoscanonline.com/>

Write a resume

Your resume details the work and training you've done. It is not necessary to pad your resume with work you haven't actually done. It's important to be honest. Your experience or lack thereof will be obvious once you are on set. It is better that a director or producer is aware that you haven't had a ton of experience. They'll hire you because you fit the role and they like you.

Your resume should be trimmed to 8" x 10" and attached to the back of your headshot facing out using staples in each of the four corners.

Submit to agencies

There are several good agencies in Miami. It's best to stick with a SAG licensed agency, even if you do not belong to the union. SAG licensed agencies must adhere to SAG rules in order to maintain their licenses.

Miami talent agencies:

Gilla Roos Miami

1000 5th Street #203, Miami Beach

(305) 357-0601

www.gillaroosmiami.com

Read their talent submission instructions under 'SUBMIT PHOTOS'

Stellar Talent Agency

3001 W. Hallandale Beach Blvd., #303

Pembroke Park, Fl. 33009

(954) 241-7376

<http://www.stellartalentagency.com>

Mail in submission only. Do not email your submission.

Runways The Talent Group (Peggi McKinley)

1688 Meridian Avenue. Ste. #500

Miami Beach, Fl. 33139

(305) 538-3529

<http://www.runwaysthetalentgroup.com/index.cfm>

Read the submission instructions under 'MODEL SUBMISSIONS':

<http://www.runwaysthetalentgroup.com/submit.cfm>

Martin & Donalds Model & Talent Agency, Inc.

2131 Hollywood Blvd Suite #308

Hollywood, Florida 33020

(954) 921-2427

Read their FAQ section regarding submissions:

<http://www.martinanddonalds.com/FAQ.php>

Boca Talent and Model Agency

149B NE 2nd Ave

Suite 1

Delray Beach, FL 33344

(954) 428-4677

<http://www.bocamodels.com/>

Read their talent submission instructions under 'SUBMIT PROFILE'

Follow up

Give the agency a week or two to review your submission and contact you. If you do not hear from the agency during this time, follow up with a phone call. The best time to reach an agent is usually toward the end of the day, when the agent is finished with the day's casting calls and may not be as busy.

You may say something like, "I am following up on my submission. I wanted to make sure you received my materials and would like to set an appointment to discuss possible representation." The agent will either set an appointment, say they are busy (which may just be the case), or decline your submission. This should be your only follow up call unless you are given an indication that they would like you to call back at a different time. Most agents will at least take a second look at your submission, which can lead to an interview.

Do not be discouraged if your submission is declined. The agency may simply be full in your category or is not currently accepting new submissions. There are several talent agencies and you will most likely be able to find the right fit. It is important to continue working on your craft and building positive momentum even during this process.

Multi-Listing vs Exclusive Representation

There are two options for representation in Miami; multi-listing and exclusive. You multi-list when you register with several agencies and take a casting with the first agent that calls you. It is very important that you sign in and slate with the agent that called you for that audition. Do not accept and audition from an agent and then sign in with your favorite agent.

An exclusive agreement is just that – exclusive. You register with just one agent. The advantage of this is that if you have a strong relationship with your agency and the agency has only a few slots available for a casting, you will get the chance to audition before someone who multi-lists. Before signing exclusively with an agent, make sure that this is the case and that they feel they will be able to send you on all of the auditions available in your category.

There are advantages and drawbacks to each style of representation and you alone know what style you can handle. If you are fine with juggling agents, communicating clearly with each, and keeping track of who is submitting you for what, multi-listing may be right for you. If this approach makes you anxious, or you prefer to keep things simple, exclusive representation may be your best fit.

Meet with Several Agencies

I suggest meeting with at least 3 or 4 agencies before making your final decision. You may let each agent know that you are interviewing several agents and that you may multi-list, but that they should contact you in the interim if they have a role for which they feel you would be a good candidate.

There are several questions you should ask each agent during your meetings:

- What is their commission policy?
- Do they get a lot of requests for castings in your category?
- Do they represent a large number of people in your category?
- Do they accept actors who multi-list or do they prefer exclusive agreements?
- Which form of contact do they prefer (phone or email)?

Most of all, relax and be yourself. Agents like to work with actors who are personable, professional and most of all *nice*. You would be surprised at how far simply being nice and polite will get you!

Continue to build your resume

There are several opportunities to perform without going through an agency. Student films and low budget/no budget short films are a great way to gain experience on a film set and get material for your reel. There are several websites that allow you to submit for roles directly:

Mandy.com

Actors Access

SAGindie.com

Now Casting

Get Experience

A great way to get to know a film set is to do extra work. There is a lot of “movie talk” on a film set; terms like *Back to one*, *Rolling*, *Action*, *Cut*, *Wrap*, etc. While you may have heard these terms before, being really comfortable with them and the sequence of shooting can help immensely once you do book a role in front of the camera. Working a few extra jobs will give you the opportunity to become familiar with a film set without a lot of pressure.

Resources

[The Actors Blueprint](#) by Ralph Kinnard

[The Organic Actor](#) by Lori Wyman

[Backstage Forums](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions:

info@katrina-morris.com

www.katrina-morris.com

Sincerely,

Katrina Morris