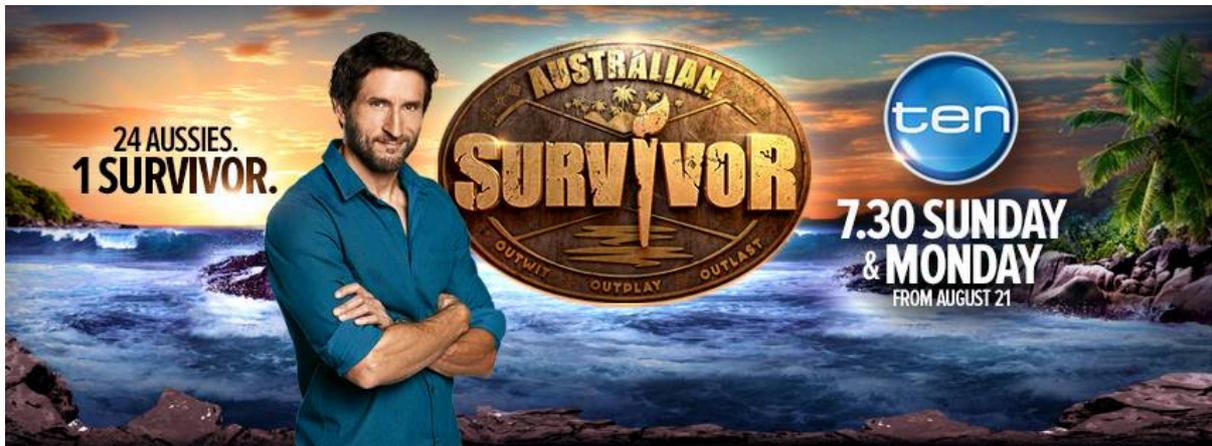


Tips on the Survivor Audition Video

Conner Bethune



Since the airing of Australian Survivor, I have been messaged by many survivor fans, asking for advice on how to create the best audition video to gain access to the ever illusive stage 2 of the casting process.

When I was applying for the show, I so desperately wanted someone to tell me if what I was doing was any good. I remember thinking that if I made it onto the show, I would help give some tips to the diehard fans so they too could have a fighting chance of achieving their dream.

Below I have provided some tips on what I found was the best way to create an audition video. It is important to remember that there are many ways to get onto survivor. Below are just some strategies that you may find useful, from my own experience and from talking to casting.

FIRST THINGS FIRST...

The first step you should take, before doing anything else, is watch the video of Paravati Shallows talking to one of the casting directors. This video outlines what a casting director is actually looking for when they select contestants. This is a perfect place to start.

The video can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgbV55tNmcQ>

PRESENTING YOURSELF

Be a Character

As mentioned in the video, Survivor often looks for an eclectic mix of characters, to represent all aspects of society. Quite often casting will look for an individual that resembles a successful character from past seasons of Survivor. My advice here would be to think about what sort of character you could potential be viewed as. Then accentuate the hell out of it!

For example, in my own video and application, I thought I would best come across as a Spencer type character. This was because Spencer fits my own personality quite well and the way I wanted to play the game. He was strategic, did what it took win, but genuine and non-spiteful. I am aware this might come across as controversial, as I know a lot of fans are critical of the moves I made and would suggest that I am nothing like Spencer. Regardless, this was very successful for me in being casted onto the show. One of the casting directors even stated that I reminded him of Spencer, and from then on, I knew my chances were looking better.

In saying that, you could have a very interesting personality unlike anyone else seen before and you may very well pioneer a new type of character all together. There is no exact winning formula, this is just from my own experience.

Be Opinionated

Be opinionated and definitive in what you say. Show that you have a big personality. Survivor isn't about a group of passive people; they want strong characters with strong opinions, who are not afraid to say what they think. Whether you already have these traits or not, at least show something similar in your video.

Gameplay

Finally, casting is going to want to know how you intend to play the game. For instance, it may be beneficial to claim that you're going to be a power player, that you'd do whatever it takes to win the game. It is essential to remember while creating your video, that this is a TV show first, and game second. They want you to be entertaining.

FILMING YOUR AUDITION TAPE

Talk, talk, talk!

It is essential that you spend most of your video talking to the camera. Casting wants to get a feel for who you are as a person and how you appear on camera. Far too many videos are submitted where people are doing push-ups and sit-ups to 'eye of the tiger' for the entirety of their video. Speaking to the camera for at least 1/3 of your video will put you far in front of a lot of the videos already submitted.

Grab the audience's attention

Another tip is to grab the viewers' attention immediately! Casting has to filter through thousands of videos and will likely get bored easily. I would not be surprised if casting just clicked the 'no' button after just watching 10 seconds of some videos. Make sure you do something to grab the viewers' attention early, so they will at least listen to what you have to say.

Selling yourself on Camera

Many people have a great deal of difficulty coming across natural on camera, and I am no different. When I first began filming my video I sounded incredibly awkward and rehearsed. I figured out a couple of good ways to combat this that worked well for me.

1. Film yourself away from people
 - a. If you have a friend filming, and you're like me, you may feel a bit silly saying what you need to say for the video. As a result, you may come across awkward or uncomfortable on camera. You may also end up rushing the process and getting bad takes. In saying that, if you are extremely comfortable filming in a social environment, casting will love that even more. They will get a feel for how you interact with others. However, if you're like me, I would suggest doing it solo.

2. Bring out your charisma!
 - a. You may be coming across stilted, serious or lacking charisma when watching back what you have filmed. Something that I found that helped me, was to work myself up into a funny/silly/delirious kind of mood beforehand. This understandably might sound a little strange to many, but working myself up into a playful mood helped me come up with some pretty random/great material on the fly. News anchors and actors will often do a similar technique to get them ready for the job. Work yourself up by making bizarre noises, sing songs even. This can help you loosen up and appear more comfortable and confident on camera.

Evidence

In your video it is extremely important to state why you have what it takes to be the sole Survivor. Try to come up with as many reasons as humanly possible as to why you would kick ass in the following categories;

- A. Surviving in the Wild
- B. The Social Game
- C. The Strategic Game

Most importantly, when explaining the reasons as to why you would be great on survivor, provide **evidence**. Make sure any statement you make can be supported with evidence from your daily life, job or past experiences. Anyone can claim they are a strategic mastermind. What will make you stand out is if you can prove it.

A good example of this is Matt. Matt can say, 'I'm a magician and a mentalist, I trick and read people for living, so naturally I am going to be good at deceiving and reading the other contestants'. This also helps the casting directors obtain an idea of how they might sell you as a character in that all important opening scene when you enter in a boat or a truck and it cuts to your face, while your voiceover is saying something like 'I'm Phoebe, I prosecute criminal cartels and I am trained in getting information out of people', or 'I'm Jason and I'm a bounty hunter. On a daily basis I get mothers to rat out their own sons. I know how to convince people to do what I want.' This is all about accentuating who you are (that is, your 'character').

Break up the Information

You will need to feed casting a lot of information about yourself and why you will win. Feeding someone too much information at once can get a little boring and easy to zone out. A good way to keep someone engaged, is by breaking up the information you give, with a little bit of humor every now and then. You will find people will hang on to the words you say instead of zoning out.

Don't cut from scene to scene too often. Try to say as much as possible before switching to another frame. This will show casting that you are articulate and a good speaker on and off camera. If every couple of sentence you cut to saying something else, it will look stilted.

OVERALL

I hope this information helped! Remember that this is just a rough guide I have put together, and that there are so many ways as to going about filming an audition video. What worked for me might not work for the next person, and that's perfectly OK! Good luck and I hope to see you on season two of Australian Survivor!

Conner out!

