

A woman with a large, styled hairdo is being touched up by a man in a studio setting. The woman is wearing a dark, floral-patterned top. The man is wearing glasses and a dark shirt. The background features a blue wall and several bright, circular studio lights. The overall scene is lit with a warm, golden glow.

ORGANIZEDACTOR.COM

**52 WAYS TO ONE-UP  
YOUR ACTING CAREER**

*today*

## Congratulations.

You're well on your way to loving your acting career and booking more work!

Whether you are just starting out, already have some success, or are merely looking for some ideas to feel productive on those "working at getting work days," you'll find the tools and strategies you need within these pages.

Even if you choose to implement only a handful of these tools, they will make a noticeable difference in your career and your life.

After 25+ years as an entertainment professional both on stage and behind the table, and 20+ years as a Creative Success Coach, I have learned unique ways to keep moving forward in this wacky business, and to flourish in it even on the days you are not actually "working" as an actor.

In other words, it's more than just sending out resumes and going to auditions. It's actually both an INSIDE job and an OUTSIDE job! In fact, it is imperative for you to become a STRONG INDIVIDUAL SO THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF THE INDUSTRY ARE BALANCED BY A STRONG BELIEF IN YOURSELF.

I want you to have an awesome life and an awesome career. So you'll find a mix of things on this list including little tasks you could do today, and others that will take a little time to implement and give you purpose each and every day.

Some of these ideas may be new to you. Or you may have tried some of them in the past, and they didn't work. But don't decide the result yet. Try what speaks to you on this list and see what happens!

I do suggest reading the entire thing once through, and then going back and choosing the ones you want to begin implementing today, tomorrow and next week. And don't worry about getting it done perfectly. Just get to it. Take action and go boldly in the direction of your dreams!

Fondly,

Leslie Becker

# *Here are MORE than 52 Ways to One-Up Your Acting Career*

55 Ways to be exact.

Don't get overwhelmed. Just pick a few to implement and pretty soon you'll be see a transformation in your career.

I've divided them into these categories to make them easier to read. Either choose a category to complete, or randomly pick one from any category and implement it today.

- **Daily Tasks** – little baby steps you can do every single day that, with consistency, will breed HUGE results
- **Inner Work** – asking yourself bigger questions and stepping up your game
- **Auditioning** – tips to step up your audition game
- **Networking** – connecting and building your “raving fans”
- **Social Media** – cool things to post and who to follow
- **Beautiful You** – tips for feeling your best always
- **Feeding the Artist** – ideas for excellent self care

Keep in mind that some of these tips could actually be listed in many categories, but I've just chosen one category for today.

Enjoy!

# Daily Tasks

Choose one or two of these tasks and commit to doing them EVERY SINGLE DAY. In about 21 days, you will see big results. Challenge yourself by not missing a single day and see what happens.

- Vocalize everyday.
- Work on your audition monologues everyday.
- Drink eight (8) glasses of water everyday.
- Put yourself on tape to practice on-camera technique everyday.
- Reach out to three people, just to say hello everyday.
- Post two quality social media posts everyday.
- Submit yourself to something everyday.
- Read or listen to something inspiring everyday.
- Move. Move. Move. Whether that's working out, walking, dancing, doing sit-ups... do it everyday.

## Inner Work

Use these deeper questions to discover what really makes you special. Then, surround yourself with good people and good juju!

- ❑ Write down the words that BEST describe you. Ask friends, colleagues, co-workers how they would describe you, then choose the top three to five qualities and post those words everywhere in your house. Then, simply BE THOSE!
- ❑ Write down your top values as a human being. Values are words like “connection,” “love,” “independence,” “creativity,” “health & vitality,” “contribution,” etc. Once you have that list, choose your top FIVE.
- ❑ Ask yourself WHY you are an actor. Does being an actor satisfy your top values? If not, how could you shape your acting career to be in alignment with your core values?
- ❑ Notice if you ever say, “I hate auditioning” or “I suck at auditions” or anything negative about auditions. Then choose a completely opposite viewpoint to start saying instead of that, i.e. “I love auditioning because it’s a chance to do what I love!” or “I give great auditions!” or “I’m the audition king!”

- ❑ Ask yourself what success really “looks like” to you? Is it an inner feeling, or do you need tangible, public acknowledgement to feel successful?
- ❑ Write down your top three skills (as an actor or human). Then write down the skills you feel you need to work on to get stronger and better.
- ❑ Have at least three goals you are fiercely working towards. Ideally, it could include one career goal, one financial goal and one personal goal. But, put a plan in place and take consistent action to bring them to fruition.
- ❑ Decide today that you will no longer surround yourself with people who are negative, jaded about the business, or draw too much energy from you.
- ❑ Laugh more. It’s not as serious as you think. After all, we get to put on dress-up and “play” for a living.
- ❑ No more gossiping. Period.

# Auditioning

Auditions are the cornerstone of our “working at getting work” days, so here are a few ways to up your game big time!

- ❑ Decide that for your next audition you are going to prepare more than you ever have in the past. Up your game in EVERY way! Hire a coach to work on your material, practice it everyday leading up to the audition and don't engage in chit-chat in the waiting area. Stay focused on the work and on presenting your best self in the room.
  
- ❑ Say your new positive declaration about auditions (from the Inner Work section) three times before you go in an audition room. Breathe deeply just before entering and then OWN THE ROOM.
  
- ❑ Truly LISTEN to what the people in the room are saying to you, particularly when they give you adjustments. And NO MATTER WHAT, make the adjustment!!! Most of the time they are just trying to see if you take direction. Show them that you can.
  
- ❑ Lay out your clothes, print your resume, get your sides in order, reconfirm the details on your audition notice including time, location, audition specifics ALL THE NIGHT BEFORE, and leave at least 15 minutes earlier

than you usually do to arrive with time to spare. It is far better to be early than late and if you know you are running late, call the audition studio and ask them to send a note to the casting director that you are running late. Common courtesy goes a long way. But first off, don't be late. First impressions people!!

- ❑ Spend far less time socializing at an audition, and far more time staying focused on the work at hand. Wear your ear buds if you have to. Do whatever it takes to stay in audition mode. Save the tweeting for after you come out of the room.
- ❑ Always, always, always have at least three photos and resumes with you AND your audition book. Even if you are given all the sides that "they want you to prepare," they still often ask for you to sing/read something from your book. So don't be caught without something that is just "you."
- ❑ Be sure to write down your audition notes afterwards in your Silver Edition of The Organized Actor®. Include who was in the room, what you sang/read, any notes you had for yourself or from the folks behind the table. Then you'll have everything documented for when you have a callback or audition for any of those folks again.



- ❑ Commit to taking as many audition classes, workshops and continuing education as you can. The more you study, the better you get. Your level of expertise is always a journey. Don't ever stop learning or striving to strengthen your skills! And don't stop at acting classes! Be sure you're also exploring self-development courses, success training and money classes.

## *Networking*

Networking doesn't have to be scary. Implement some of these fun strategies and watch your network grow!

- ❑ Implement my Three-A-Day Game. Choose three people each day that you will reach out to just to say hello. It's NOT a pitch. It's NOT a "Cast me! Cast me!" It's just a genuine hello, human to human.
- ❑ Go to lunch with someone of influence every week. This can be someone you've worked with. Someone you want to work with. A mentor. A teacher.
- ❑ Follow the people you most want to work with on social media. Engage with them by responding to their posts, and re-tweeting when appropriate.

- ❑ Support your friends who are composers and lyricists by offering your services to sing or read for their projects. Many of them are probably in various writer groups like BMI or NYU Writers Program and need singers to perform their work for critique.
- ❑ Take advantage of networking facilities to meet industry people that you can't get an audition with. And don't scoff at the \$30 you spend to meet them. I think of these as power lunches. Meaning if you were in ANY other business, you would take someone to lunch if you wanted to do business together. But do your research and have a strategic plan for who you are meeting.
- ❑ Each week do a small act of service for someone. Help a friend move. Make a connection for someone. Cheer someone up. Walk their dog.
- ❑ Create a monthly digital "newsletter" announcing what's happening. Include everyone you've ever worked with on your list. They can unsubscribe as they see fit.

## *Social Media*

I'm SURE you already have a Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, etc...accounts. But if you don't, create them now!

- Choose your TOP PLATFORM...the one you are going to engage with the most...and create a signature branded post you'll post consistently - something that aligns with you, your values and your interests. Give it a look and feel that can be repeated so people get used to it. Examples include: An inspirational quote. Favorite fashion pictures. Foodie moments. Make sure it is something that speaks to you and can connect you to others AND that you can post with consistency. Here are some samples. The info changes, but the design for each campaign does not change.



- Discover and follow your favorite directors, musical directors, choreographers, producers, actors and theatre companies on social platforms.
- Choose a few unique hashtags that you will use in your posts. One could be your name, but try to get more creative and brand something that is uniquely you. Some of my hashtags include #lifebyleslie #unstoppablycreative #getorganized #getcreative

- ❑ Follow @marketing4actors (Heidi Dean) for awesome tips on how to take your social media through the roof!
- ❑ Spend at least 10 minutes every day engaging with your followers by either commenting on their posts, responding to their reach outs or re-tweeting or re-posting theirs.
- ❑ Try Spark.Adobe to create awesome branded designs without any design know-how necessary.
- ❑ Quality posts are better than quantity, and should definitely NOT only be announcements of what you're doing. Find a way to engage your audience and make people your raving fans.

## *Beautiful You*

Be sure you're taking care of yourself and honoring your health and vitality! Here are some ideas to keep you ladies looking beautiful, the men handsome, and those who are in-between as fabulous as ever.

- ❑ Hire a stylist to help you look awesome. With the new on-line stylist sites like Stitchfix.com, there's no reason you can't look your best, even on a tiny budget.

- ❑ Treat yourself! Maybe get a facial or massage or both.
- ❑ Go to bed 30 minutes earlier tonight.
- ❑ Investigate the art of meditation. There's an awesome app called *Headspace.com* to get guided meditations for pennies.
- ❑ For ladies, once and for all, please stop wearing character shoes to your singing or reading auditions. Purchase a pair of beautiful heels or cool, sexy boots that you feel comfortable walking in that make your legs look fierce. (Obviously for a dance call, totally different story...you gotta have character shoes for that!) If you don't know about the Conrad Cantzen Shoe Fund through Actors Fund, check it out and you might qualify for a beautiful new pair of shoes.
- ❑ Kiss one bad habit goodbye. Maybe today you quit smoking, quit drinking, quit biting your finger nails, quit eating too much sugar, quit spending too much on café lattes, quit negative self-talk. Quit something! (But be sure to replace it with something else that is a GREAT habit!)

- ❑ Have specific clothes that you only use for auditions. Keep them clean and looking great. And if they get worn, tattered and no longer fit you, get rid of them.
- ❑ My secret sauce for youthful skin... coconut oil. You can use it to replace your other cooking oils, or better yet, put it all over your skin everywhere. Using it every night around my eyes has visibly reduced my wrinkles and crows feet. Even if you don't have facial lines yet, use it. It has no reported side effects and honestly, it just makes me happy. Trader Joes sells a big jar for really cheap.

## *Feeding The Artist*

Isn't that why we're all here? To be the best artists we can be? So while you're busy doing all this "business," don't forget it's still about your craft, so feed it!

- ❑ Splurge on full-price theatre tickets to a show you really want to see. Remember, seeing theatre is part of your job as an actor. Yes, there are tons of ways to get cheap tickets. But when you can't, and it's a show you really want to see, treat yourself.
- ❑ Make a list of all the roles you are right for in currently running Broadway shows and tours.

- ❑ Choose one of your dream roles, and commit to learning all the songs from the show (not from the cast recording!) I mean really working the songs with a coach or in class. Perhaps find someone who has been an associate music director of the show to work with you and guide you on your prep.
  
- ❑ Make a career vision board or book featuring photos of all of the goals you are reaching for in your career. Include pictures of awards you want to win, a Broadway marquee, or TV show, actors you want to work with, directors you love, and photos of YOU playing the roles you want to play (simply find a photo of the current person playing it, but insert your head) LOL. Come on, have some fun!
  
- ❑ Start yourself a Fun Fund and put 5% of everything you make in this special fund (whether a bank account or a jar in your house). The only rule is... you have to spend all of it at the end of the month on something delightful just for you! Then rinse and repeat!
  
- ❑ Take a process class where there's no pressure to perform for a casting director, but to remind yourself how much you love the art of singing or doing scene work. This is crucial to feel like you are an actor even when you're not working.

- ❑ Once and for all create that project starring you! I call them WOW Projects! Whether it's a one-person show, a web series, an album or video, decide this year that you're going to bring it to fruition. (If you want help with that consider joining my WOW Project Program where dozens of other actors and artists are taking their careers into their own hands).
  
- ❑ Finally, I want you to embrace your unique talents. They are a privilege and a gift, and you are born to use them, to shine your light as brightly as possible on the world. And even on the days when people don't seem to need your particular talent, do not question that you are talented, wonderful and enough.



## Next Steps

Are you ready to create a life and a career that you love?  
Would you like to book more work?  
Are you finally ready to bring your own project to fruition?  
Your career is waiting. Let's do this!

### Learn how to take control of your acting career and your life with an Unstoppably Creative Consultation.

No matter where you are in your career, my Unstoppably Creative Consultation (UCC) is designed to take you to the next level.

Whether you're just starting out, or a showbiz veteran, **this consultation is designed to meet you right where you are** and address the most pressing questions about taking your career and your life to the next level.

I'll look at the nuts and bolts of your acting business. Then we'll focus mostly on YOU and what YOU WANT from you career and your life. I'll make sure you leave with a clear set of goals and tasks to get you moving directly toward your goals and strengthening your inner game TO MAKE YOU A STRONG INDIVIDUAL, SO THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF THE INDUSTRY ARE BALANCED BY A STRONG BELIEF IN YOURSELF!

**The bottom line is: Actors with a plan, a strong belief system and fierce pursuits are more successful, have a happier life and BOOK MORE WORK!**

To learn more: <http://www.organizedactor.com/coaching>  
Or email us directly at [leslie@organizedactor.com](mailto:leslie@organizedactor.com)

**I can't wait to work with you!**

