



## Casting Headshots for Young Actors - A Parent's Guide

“A good quality Headshot should capture the essence and sense of your child in an image that should be alive and real” Stephen Cain Photographer

Select the right Photographer for you

There are many photographers out there and it is important to select one that specialises in Headshot Photography. Check out their web sites and examples of their work. Do they have experience working with children as it is very different than with adults and requires different skills. Share with your photographer what you want to achieve. If there are images and style you like let them know in advance. Also, this should apply to images and styles you do not like. You need a photographer who understands how important the session is to you and cares as much as you do about getting the best out of it.

Your Headshot

You should be clear on what types of roles you are looking at and make sure your images are consistent and reflect this. Rather than just a complimentary portrait photo your headshot needs to convey your personality what you project and who you want to portray. Basically, you are presenting yourself to a casting director as - this is me

A good headshot does not have to be dramatic but will create something slightly different with that sparkle in your eyes or subtle smile that will capture their attention.

The eyes are probably the first thing a prospective casting director or agent will look at, so they are very important! Establish a connection with the camera. Practice before you get your headshots done so you won't be intimidated

Content & Styling

As a first guide consider your child's playing age, colourings and personality. Always keep your child involved in any decisions and discussions. It is important that they are happy and motivated on the day and being themselves, which will reflect in their images.

Vibrant colours work well particularly with younger children but can also work well with teenagers. Stripes and large patterns should be avoided as it can be distracting to the main focus which is the face. Arriving with outfits that have been ironed on hangers can really enhance the final image. Long sleeves work best and try and avoid clothes with loose neck lines as it can also be distracting. Avoid clothes with large brand logos and images. Wear clothes that fit your personality and suggest your acting type without limiting you.

Avoid white and pastel shades. Layer your tops can content and style and provides flexibility V-neck t-shirt gives a stronger, edgier look compared to a softer look from round or crew neck. These are the two most common types of neckline for actor headshots and a good safe starting point.

Avoid reflective fabrics like satin and silks as they be distracting for actor headshots so you might want to consider sticking to matte fabrics like cotton and wool.

Fun & Relaxed

We make all our sessions fun and relaxed and understand that not everyone wants to be in front of the camera. Working from our own dedicated studio we create a relaxed environment, so people enjoy our sessions which is reflected in our feedback and repeat customers.

Our ultimate aim is to get the best the possible images to successfully impress casting directors and agencies and provide the best start to your child's acting career.

Using Your Images

We kindly ask all our clients to sign our model release so we can use images for promotion on social media and our web site. Any images we use we never use any names or identification. Our objective is only to showcase our latest work. We never sell images to any third party.

We look forward to seeing you in our studio and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Stephen