

# Getting started



- Rob Kruyt, 24 hours

There is no shortage of would-be stars at King Talent, but getting started in the industry can be a daunting endeavour.

## Sage advice for those starting out in the biz

**T**o be, or not to be: That is the question all aspiring actors must face at some point along the unpredictable road known simply as "the biz."

Of course, it's not the only question: Is your wish to be a working actor or a star? Do you want to hit (and make) your mark on stage, on set, or both?

Do you have the necessary drive to push past the doubters, through constant criticism and countless rejections?

Is your dream unrealistic?

Hey, it's a tough business. Perseverance and determination aside, if an aspiring actor is to find any measure of success, they've got to have three things: Talent (which, judging by some films, is subjective), a reputable agent, and the ability to nail auditions (although, as Meatloaf so succinctly said, two out of three ain't bad).

So, think you've got the chops?

"You never know until you try," says Toronto-based actor Shawn Roberts, who's been particularly busy since appearing in the feature film *X-Men* back in 2000. "I've been surrounded by supportive friends and family my entire life, so even when I doubted myself, they were there to help me through it."

Roberts lists resiliency and committed representation as integral facets of the working actor's repertoire. "Without an open and honest dialogue between everyone in my company we could hardly strive for success in this industry."

Veteran Vancouver actress, Enid-Raye Adams (*Da Vinci's Inquest*), who recently put her dramatic pursuits on hold to take on the role of motherhood, says the first thing an aspiring actor should do is diversify: "Get a continuing education that supports not only the craft of acting but also one in which you can learn to branch out: Writing, directing, producing, so that you don't have to rely on waiting for someone else to give you work."

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Adams cautions that, through 13 years of being a professional actor, she's only worked consistently for about four or five of them.

"Invest your money well so that you don't have to worry about going hungry during down times," she says. "Take money management courses – there doesn't need to be any such thing as a starving artist."

Certainly sage advice worth heeding at all points along the way. After all, odds are that before you can carry a show, you'll no doubt have to carry a tray.

Break a leg.

- Graeme McRanor, 24 hours