

# How to become a Hollywood Star



## SEVEN STEPS TO STARDOM

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## The Seven Steps to Stardom

- Your own Vision of Success
- Love thyself & Confidence is key
- The Strategy of Success
- Casting Skills and Acting Skills
- Connections count
- Your assets
- Develop Status

# SEVEN STEPS TO STARDOM

It is vital that you know what your goal is in your acting career.

Do you want to become a star?

Or do you want to stay a small time actor or actress?

Some actors and actresses think writing is one way to stardom.

Others think producing their own films is a good career move.

There's a great secret in this business. Don't try to run before you can walk, and don't leap before you can run.

## YOUR OWN VISION OF SUCCESS

You need to have a clear vision of what you consider success.

If success is to you getting a part in a feature film and retiring, then great.

If it is getting wealthy from acting then awesome.

If it is just doing plays on stage, that's a great achievement.

However, whatever it is, it must be YOUR GOAL and YOUR IDEA OF SUCCESS.

Don't try to emulate anyone else.

However, unlike gurus and experts in this profession I will tell you that SUCCESS should also be treated as FAILURE. That way you won't be disappointed. However, if you do succeed by meeting your own goal, isn't that just fantastic! If not, then that's fantastic because at least you tried! Trying and failing is better than never trying at all.

Our goal though is to teach you how to be successful. Let's press on then.

### Written by Steven Bachmuller

My name is Steven Bachmuller and I have 35 years experience in Hollywood as a casting director working largely behind the scenes. I am have also been a special advisor to the US Government on media and performance.

I am the Assistant MD of Perimetr Films USA working as a consultant with John Clarkson, CEO of Perimetr Films (London)

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## LOVE THYSELF & CONFIDENCE IS KEY



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The trick here is to believe in yourself. Love yourself. This is Step 2

How do you believe in yourself so you have confidence?

There's a neat little trick you can use that many actors have employed.

That is to eliminate disempowering thoughts by reminding oneself that each moment is what counts, not what happened previously or what is going to happen. Just live in the moment and make it count.

The second thing though is to do exactly the opposite of this and build your commitment to acting. You do this by taking courses on acting, by practising all the time, even when you are in the street, or in a shop, you can pretend to be someone else. Act it out and see what reactions you get.

Also observe others. Many actors read faces, but can you read gestures. Can you mimick a character. Acting is much like mimicking. How does Marilyn Monroe hold her dress? How does a princess carry herself? Can you learn those skills? Can you copy them? Observation and copying, emotion and feeling are all part of the game that makes you love

Once you have 1 and 2 in place, you can start to build confidence in yourself.

How do you do this? You do it through commitment and vision.

Once you have the skills, the confidence should wash over the casting director. If it doesn't you are not yet ready to become a star.

Hollywood is cut and thrust so I will share you some secrets about how the judge confidence in Hollywood, the home of staged sex and violence:-

- \* If a scene that requires violence by you is required, and you don't know how to commit violence, you need to learn that skill, even if you are not a fighter by nature. Violence when acted properly is a great tool for any actor, even if you never use it because it teaches you two things: discipline and control.
- \* If a scene requires nudity, why worry? Nudity is truth. Just go with it. Don't turn down a part due to a nude scene. Hollywood will want you to have mastered this skill and be comfortable at it. Y'all need to learn this skill.
- \* Sex scenes are standard requirement. Nowadays they employ specialist intimacy coaches and there's loads of ways to make sure you are comfortable doing the scene. Sometimes people get an upset stomach before such a scene. You can take medicine for that as long as you know it is safe for you to take (Seek medical advice). Sex scenes are often choreographed, and sometimes body doubles are used. However, as a new actress or actor, sex scenes are necessary. If you want to be as star in Hollywood sex scenes are something you need to master and not be worried about. It's part of the profession of acting.



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## STRATEGY OF SUCCESS

Create a strategy. Some so-called experts call this a roadmap. It's actually just a plan of action.

- I. Create a set of targets to capture
- II. When you arrive at the target assume it is like a beachhead, and you have to break out of it to get to the next one
- III. Plan to take the shortest route between each target. This way you won't waste time. Time is precious because in this business 'looks fade' and your career if it is based on your looks alone goes away with their loss. Take the shortest route, whatever it may be. Have no scruples in this matter, as this business is often cutthroat. Other actors or actresses will get the part if you don't do what it takes.
- IV. Don't take parts that are not part of your targets. These will send you out of your way. Some actors end up as models and this defines them to casting people as 'bodies' not performers.

NB. This is NOT a plan of desires, but of actual understanding yourself and how you fit into it. This way you know your strengths and weaknesses and your assets.

## CASTING SKILLS AND ACTING SKILLS

You have the acting skills, but do you have the casting skills?

ACTING should be rich, deep, exciting and consistent in terms of quality. If you haven't mastered it, or at least have gained enough knowledge, use acting schools and teachers to enhance your skillset.

Acting is not the same as auditioning.

Let me explain.

Auditioning is showing off. Let's imagine you are asked to submit a performance from a script—a short extract. You can do anything you want. What impresses the person who watches it.

I will now let you into a secret:-

- ⇒ It's not what you say
- ⇒ It's not how you say it
- ⇒ It's not even how you act

So what is it?

- ◆ It's how you look relative to the part as imagined by the casting director
- ◆ It's how you gesture relative to the part imagined by the casting director
- ◆ It's how you behave in terms of movement relevant to the character portrayed.
- ◆ Your voice technique—can you portray the character's emotion?
- ◆ Your facial expressions may matter depending on the type of character
- ◆ How you video yourself matters. If you are an actress is it worth flashing a bit of leg or showing a bit of cleavage if the character is like that? Should you show your neck off? Wear your hair up or down? How you look matters, because casting directors want to see the whole of you! Are you in shape for this role? Is a fat person required?



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## CONNECTIONS COUNT

If you know no-one in this business, you will fail. You need to know influential people!

They might not always have that many connections themselves and often they won't share them online or on social media. Some are secretive souls. They won't tell you they personally know a major Hollywood director. It's not the way it is done.

Instead you need to foster connections in a wider way. There's two type of actors out there: the famous 'NAMES' and the 'TO BE DISCOVERED'. Your job is to move from the latter to the former as fast as possible. It's your only job. It should be up there in your Vision of Success list. If it isn't add it now!

How do you become a 'NAME'? You firstly have to build a portfolio. Then you have get to know producers, casting directors, agents, managers, actors, actresses, editors and writers. Don't forget Executive Producers or the ideas people (the former are secretive, the latter are 1 in a billion. If you find one of those you are in luck, because these guys are like gold dust, literally. Pure gold. Why? Because ideas people are the brains, and producers and writers love intelligent people who have vast imaginations. The rest are just crew or money. The ideas guys in Hollywood often have more influence on what gets produced than the actual executive producer. Why? Because who do you think advises the Executive Producer? Ideas are what drive men to produce movies.. Some ideas people are weapons specialists, ex-forces, secret service, bankers, economists, and even inventors.

Why are ideas people valued so highly? It's quite simple. They prevent writers block. Occasionally you'll find an ideas guy who also writes. Often the write under a pseudonym, so as not to upset the writing community in the USA. Then again, they might write the idea out and let the writer do the donkey work. Writers have skills that maybe some ideas people don't have.

Cultivate deep and lasting relationships with all of these people in the business and you can always use them to get roles.

At some point when you are ready, you need an AGENT

## YOUR ASSETS

List out your assets:-

- ◇ Physical appearance
- ◇ Measurements
- ◇ Facial features
- ◇ Accents
- ◇ Languages

LEARN TO PROMOTE YOUR ASSETS  
MARKETING IS IMPORTANT  
BE PRO-ACTIVE - SEARCH FOR ROLES

Portray these in the following:-

- ⇒ REELS
- ⇒ RESUME
- ⇒ WEBSITE
- ⇒ PROFILES e.g. IMDB



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## DEVELOP STATUS

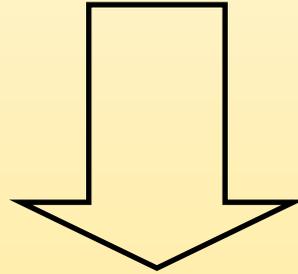
What is your status in the acting profession?

Your status matters so build it by forging connections with peers and qualified experts

Peers include actresses and actors who have been or are successful. Write to them if you can and introduce yourself. Ask them for advice.

Qualified experts are people like your acting coach. Want to be in Hollywood? Then get a decent teacher, who has connections.

Don't use threepenny coaches. Obtain the very best—top price.



**Want to learn more?**

Contact us at [www.perimetrfilms.com](http://www.perimetrfilms.com)



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