



Read the Room: Audition Pack

Thank you for applying to the “*Read the Room*” teaser casting!

The audition process is simply an individual virtual submission. The full process is outlined below so that you can better prepare (and so that it isn't daunting!).

If you do have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by emailing alexafoote1@gmail.com or messaging me on Backstage.

Contents

Synopsis

Julissa is a young, introverted professional, struggling to make her way in the performative and often inappropriate culture of *Hoff Agency*. Despite her best efforts, Julissa is continually overlooked and underestimated by her colleagues, who don't understand or appreciate her reserved nature and introverted tendencies. In an attempt to fit in, Julissa struggles to suppress her true self and forces herself to engage in the extroverted office culture, all while desperately trying to maintain her own personal boundaries. Through her journey, Julissa learns to embrace her introverted strengths, while understanding and accepting the things she can and cannot control. Ultimately, she discovers that she can find success in her career, while still being true to herself.

In addition to Julissa's story, Lamar and Isaiah are two other employees at the Hoff agency, who provide an interesting contrast to Julissa's individual journey. Together, they explore the nuances of experiences in corporate, while navigating the complexities of their shared culture and finding strength and support in each other. As Julissa, Lamar, and Isaiah all strive to make their mark in their respective fields, they ultimately discover that it is possible to succeed in a world not designed for them, if they are brave enough to stay true to themselves.

This story of personal growth, set against a backdrop of a performative corporate culture, offers an exploration of the power of individuality, the importance of self-acceptance, and the strength that comes from finding and embracing one's own truth.

Our vision

Theme: The nuances of black experiences in corporate and the possibilities of succeeding in a world not designed for them. Wearing a different mask to survive. The perceptions of living in other people's delusion. Afrosurrealism vibe rooted in reality. (Think Atlanta but in a corporate setting)

We are looking for actors who are able to connect with the premise and authentically portray each of the characters with minimal dialogue. The 1- 3 min teaser will be a series of clips put together but does not have much dialogue but is based on acting out scenarios.

Key dates

Rehearsals

Rehearsal will be at the end of April virtually, typically during the evening. However, this will be determined by the availability of both the cast and production team. No more than 2 rehearsal dates closer to the shoot date.

Shoot dates

Date: May 6, 2023 (time TBD)

Location: Downtown Las Olas, Fort Lauderdale office.[timeslot to be finalized by venue].

The audition process

Auditions

Auditions will take place virtually through video submission due March 31, 2023, at 5 PM EST.

Casting invitations for successful auditionees will be sent out on the evening of April 2nd.

How it works

The audition process is an individual video submission based on one of the following office scenarios.

Please prepare a short 1- 2 minute improv with reactions/responses to each scenario. Please submit your video on Backage or email alexafote1@gmail.com. **(Subject: Name - Character - Audition)**

1. Your manager would like to host "Belonging Hour" in tomorrow's meeting. She sent a survey to you and your new team members asking you all to please add a song to the playlist that best represents you. Tomorrow she will randomly play the music and you will need to present to everyone why you chose the song and what it represents to you once your song comes on. She encourages you to be vulnerable in sharing your story as this is a chance for everyone to get to know each other. Please respond as if you are Lamar, Julissa, or Isaiah.
2. You are lowkey exhausted after work but get invited to a last-minute team dinner. You also realize your annual compensation review is coming up. How would you react or respond to the coworker if you are Lamar, Julissa, or Isaiah?
3. A white coworker makes a microaggression towards you in an enthusiastic tone in front of the team. How would you respond if you are Lamar, Julissa, or Isaiah?

Character breakdowns

The cast will be made up of, approximately, 7 coworkers. Julissa, Isaiah, and Lamar are the primary focus in each scene and the

Character 1

- **Name:** Julissa Martin (Dark Skin, **natural hair** (locs, natural coils, afro, braids, or any natural protective style **ONLY**)
- **Age:** late 20s- early 30s
- **Role:** Project Manager
- **Archetype:** Loner - Isolates herself and struggles to connect in corporate culture. Feels alienated. Observer-Remains quiet through most and witnesses all that goes on.
- **Characteristics:** She is a stoic, socially anxious (internally) introvert, not to be confused with awkwardness or shyness. She is confident herself but feels uncomfortable around coworkers. She has been a Project Manager at the Hoff agency for the past 3 years and is jaded af. She hates corporate but enjoys the pay as a means to support her rich auntie's lifestyle. She does not play "the game" well, which affects her advancement at work. Doing her job well is not enough. Her main struggles are remaining silent, whether or not to code-switch, and feeling forced to fit in socially at work/ avoiding social interaction. She is very certain of what she does not want to do but has no idea what to do to leave corporate. She is often perceived negatively at work by her coworkers who misunderstand introverts and project their insecurities onto her.

Character 2

- **Name:** Lamar Brown
- **Age:** 30s
- **Role:** Production Manager
- **Archetype:** Outsider/Dreamer- Inherently uncomfortable in these corporate situations as they are much different than his background, and how he ended up here. Still pursuing a rap career.
- **Characteristics:** Deep Side, Lauderhill native with hopes and dreams of being a well-established rapper putting Broward County on the map. The Hoff Agency is the safest hustle to support his reckless spending habits, help maintain his rockstar image, and pay for his study sessions. He plays it safe at work to keep his means of employment but is often distracted and collaborating with his colleague Craig during office hours. He does not see himself being in the corporate space for too much longer as he is betting on himself and risking it all to pursue music. A new guy in the office Self Proclaimed "Real Nigga" incapable of confirming the whitewashed corporate structure.

Character 3

- **Name:** Isaiah Jackson
- **Age:** early 33's
- **Role:** Sr. Strategist
- **Archetype:** Imposter- Intelligent, takes advantage of situations and coworkers. Plays the corporate game very well and does what he needs to do to get ahead. Anti-hero - Driven by the pursuit of power, selfish, but shows some heart in the end.

- **Characteristics:** Ego-driven, Independent Ivy-leaguer and makes sure everyone knows it. Popular token and proud of it. Throws certain colleagues under the bus to succeed. Very charismatic to white leaders and well-liked by most but burned some bridges along the way. Ironically he is the leader of the Black employee resource group because it appears righteous but he has all the wrong intentions. Goal; CEO!
-