

# Packaging Yourself Professionally



Janice Luise

## It's Not Luck

It's Not Luck is written by Janice Luise-Lutkus. It is an advice column on the business of acting, directing, and artistry in CT. Janice is a freelance Director; the producing Director of AspenDream Productions, LLC a CT dinner theatre company; a Casting Director listed in CT Film and Media. She holds a degree in theatre from University of CT, studied directing at Yale University Summer Program, and has 22 years of management experience. She has acted throughout CT and NY and appeared in commercials, industrials, videos, films, and voice-overs. Luck never got her any of her jobs.

### DEAR JANICE:

For the past few years I have really been enjoying acting in the various community theatres. I've read your column and you often preach how important it is to have a headshot and resume. But I don't want to be a professional actor. I enjoy acting as a hobby. So is it really necessary that I have a formal resume when I go to community theatre auditions? After all, they usually have a form to fill out when you get there.

-Mary, Southington, CT

### DEAR MARY:

The public expects a professional level performance from our community theatres. They pay ticket prices for their families and transportation costs. Their precious time is valuable. Artistic Directors of theatre companies understand the growing competition. Many times, graduates of acting programs are often given priority when it comes to auditions. Perhaps it is because of the level of commitment they have already invested in their training. When you come in to audition without a headshot or resume, it is understandable that the director may not take you as seriously as the other candidates. You do not need to invest in a headshot if you aren't looking to work professionally, but spend a little effort at the computer and put together a resume. If you don't take yourself seriously, why should the casting committee?

### DEAR JANICE:

Can you tell me if my home address should be in my acting resume and what else is important to include?

-Mark, Tolland, CT

### DEAR MARK:

I do not recommend that your home address or social security number ever be listed on your acting resume. Unfortunately, I've had young teens send in their resumes with this private information. Don't do it.

Directors only care about one thing: are you right for the part? So an acting resume is set up differently than a business resume. There are plenty of examples on-line. Make sure you always include a cover letter and use quality paper.

Basic information should include your name, phone number, cell phone, answering service, height, weight, hair color, eye color, membership in any of the acting unions, acting experience in films, television, or theater, college degree, acting training, including workshops, coaches, classes, and special skills that may come in handy for an acting role.

Never lie about your acting jobs. The industry is small and it is easier than you think to find out. Don't indicate your education if it's not in theatre. Don't make the type smaller than 10pt. A solid resume is a marketing tool every serious artist must have. Keep it up to date.