

Wendy Kurtzman

Professor / Casting Director / Author

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Wendy is an Emmy-nominated casting director who has helped launch the careers of many well-known actors including such notables as Sandra Bullock, Reese Witherspoon, Patrick Dempsey and Evan Rachel Wood.

She has more than 25 years of experience in feature films, movies for television, mini-series and theater and has worked with many distinguished directors such as Paul Schrader, Diane Keaton, Sally Field and Roland Emmerich, for whom she cast the blockbuster "Independence Day," starring Will Smith.

Prior to starting her own casting business, she was a casting executive at Lifetime and NBC. She began her career as an actress in musical theater and graduated with a degree in theater from UCLA.

In 2013 Wendy launched College to Career Acting, to help emerging BFA/MFA artists navigate the transition from Academia into the Entertainment Industry. Her experience as both a performer and a casting director afford her a unique perspective into what it takes to succeed as a performer.

Recently, Wendy joined PhilmCo Media as Head of Casting while also serving as Faculty at UCLA and Pace University where she teaches personal narrative, audition technique and transition to the Industry.

ACADEMIC/TEACHING

Faculty appointments – 2020-2021

- UCLA-MFA- Winter, Spring 2020 - 2nd and 3rd year Cohort
- UCLA- BA- Career Preparation - Winter 2021
- UCLA High School- Summer Institute and Weekend Intensive
- PACE University / NYC- Spring 2020 - MFA / 3-week Master Class for graduates
- PACE University- BA Senior / 2-week Master Class for graduates
- PACE Summer Scholars- Faculty 2018-present

Pace School of Performing Arts, Los Angeles Intensive

Producer / Creator

January 2015-Present

- Created an ongoing 3-week program for 4th year BFA students.
- Responsible for 90 hours of curriculum including on camera technique, audition technique, marketing/branding for the Film and TV business and showcase production.
- Curate and facilitate multiple industry guest speakers / teachers covering all facets of the business.

Pace School of Performing Arts

Assistant Professor: Film / Television / Voiceover / Commercial Department BFA Acting Faculty
2016-2018

- Classes Taught:
 - Transition to the Industry / Prep for Digital World
 - Audition Techniques for Film & TV Actors

- FTVC Showcase class and performance
- Pace LA Acting Experience – including material selection and production of video showcase
- Brought in multiple industry guest speakers/teachers covering all facets of the business.

Summer Discovery Program - Acting for Theater, TV and Film

Producer/Creator

June/July 2015-present

- Created a 5-week intensive program for **High School** students covering all aspects of the acting business.
- Taught marketing/branding, performance, auditions, demo reels, head shots/resumes.
- Brought in multiple industry guest speakers covering all facets of the business.
- College Audition process- monologue/song selection for prospective BFA/BA students

Stonestreet Studios/NYU- Tisch School of the Arts

Professor/Guest Lecturer

January-May 2018

- Advanced Audition for Camera and Transition to The Industry
- Led focus groups for **current book project**

NYU Tisch School of the Arts

Guest Lecturer/Teacher

October 2015 & February 2017

- Two-day workshop for MFA students. Transition into Film/TV

The New School – NYC

Adjunct Professor

February-April 2017

- Taught transition into Film/TV
- Crafted video showcase for MFA and BFA students

University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater BFA

Guest Lecturer/Teacher

April & December 2016, May 2017

- Taught two-day master classes covering branding/auditioning for the Film/TV Industry.

The Julliard School

Guest Lecturer/Teacher

April, October 2015

- Facilitated a post-showcase discussion about the transition from college to career.
- 2 Day Workshop- Addressing transition from Academia to the Industry

Academy of Art San Francisco, Master Class

Guest Lecturer/Teacher

May 2015-2018

- Taught a two-day master class covering branding/auditioning for the Film/TV Industry/BFA students

University of Michigan, Los Angeles Showcase

Guest Lecturer/Teacher

May 2015

- Directed pre-showcase preview and facilitated post showcase discussion.

Academy of Art San Francisco

Guest Lecturer/Teacher

October 2014

- Taught two seminars. Transition from High School to College and from College to Career.

Syracuse University
Guest Lecturer/Teacher
August 2014

- Taught Marketing/Branding for Film/TV workshop.

University of Michigan, Los Angeles Showcase
Industry Consultant
May 2014

- Directed pre-showcase preview and post showcase discussion.

Los Angeles Musical Theater Workshop
Teacher
March 2014

- Taught a comprehensive musical theater workshop with Michael Lavine.

Los Angeles Music Center
Guest Lecturer/Teacher
September 2014

- Taught parent/student seminar on BFA & BA programs.

Vista Del Mar
Volunteer
2012

- Co-director of seasonal shows for residential, educational facility that helps children 8-18 struggling with emotional and mental disabilities.

Harvard Westlake School
Director
2009-2010

- Directed series of one-act plays.

American Academy of Dramatic Arts
Teacher
2005-2006

- Taught a Master Class addressing interview/presentation skills and audition preparation.

BUSINESS/INDUSTRY

College to Career Acting
Founder/Owner
2013-Present

- Programing to guide acting students through the two critical career transitions: High School into College and College into film and television careers.
- Facilitator and teacher for group intensives and private coaching sessions for pre-College and emerging artists
- On-going: Virtual Industry symposiums- (most recent-August 3-5, 2020) 3 day virtual intensive. Financial and mental wellness, Casting and Management/Production.

Author: "BFA, MFA and now what?" (Tentative title, release 2021)- Be the CEO at your "boardroom table" to create priorities and working "departments" for your career. Balance your creative dreams and the practicalities of day-to-day life.

SAG/AFTRA- Crafting the monologue/On camera technique- Master class teacher - per professional availability

CASTING

PhilmCo Media

Head of Casting

August 2020-Present

- Manage current slate of films
- Attach talent and Casting Directors to projects/scripts

Wendy Kurtzman Casting

Independent Casting Director

1983-Present

FEATURE FILMS

Independence Day	20th Century Fox	Director: Roland Emmerich
Auto Focus	Sony Classics	Director: Paul Schrader
Stigmata	MGM	Director: Rupert Wainwright
The Runner	Independent	Director: Ron Moller
Replacement Killers	Columbia/Tri-Star	Director: Antoine Fuqua
Suicide Kings	Live Entertainment	Director: Peter O'Fallon
Digging To China	Davis Entertainment	Director: Tim Hutton
Dangerous Beauty	New Regency	Director: Marshall Herskovitz
The Pest	Tri-Star	Director: Paul Miller
House Arrest	Polone-Winer/Rysher	Director: Harry Winer
Carried Away	Fine Line/Cinetel	Director: Bruno Barreto
Color of Night	Hollywood Pictures	Director: Richard Rush
Stephen King's Sleepwalkers	Columbia Pictures	Director: Mick Garris
Love Potion #9	Anarchy Studios/Fox	Director: Dale Launer

MOVIES FOR TELEVISION/PILOTS

Journey to the East	Xia Ri Min Prod.	Director: Roger Christiansen
The Service	ABC/Touchstone	Director: Clark Johnson
Infidelity	Lifetime/Judy Polone	Director: Harry Winer
The Jury	Fox/Tom Fontana	Director: Barry Levinson
Lucky Seven	ABC Family	Director: Harry Winer
Howie Mandel	NBC/Pariah	Director: Barnet Kellman
Follow The Leeds	Lifetime	Director: Peter Werner
The Crooked E	CBS	Director: Penelope Spheeris
Damaged Care	Showtime	Director: Harry Winer
The Pilot's Wife	CBS	Director: Robert Markowitz
Blonde	CBS	Director: Joyce Chopra
The Beast	ABC/Imagine TV	Director: Alex Graves
Jesus	CBS/Lux Vide	Director: Roger Young
What We Did That Night	ABC/Polone/Winer	Director: Paul Shapiro
Nicolas' Gift	CBS/Lux Vide	Director: Robert Markowitz
The Day Lincoln Was Shot	TNT	Director: John Gray
The Christmas Tree	ABC/Disney	Director: Sally Field
Twisted Desire	NBC	Director: Craig Baxley
Mother's Day	Hearst Entertainment	Director: Michael Scott
Close to Danger	ABC	Director: Nemma Barnette
A Woman of Independent Means	NBC	Director: Robert Greenwald
JFK: Reckless Youth	ABC/Judy Polone	Director: Harry Winer
Murder of Innocence	CBS/Judy Polone	Director: Tom McLoughlin
Bedroom Eyes	NBC/Judy Polone	Director: Leon Ichoaso
Darkness Before Dawn	NBC/Judy Polone	Director: John Patterson
Getting Up and Going Home	Lifetime/Judy Polone	Director: Stephen Schachter
Inner Sanctum	ABC	Director: Michael Rhodes
Wildflower	Lifetime/Hearst	Director: Diane Keaton
Runaway Father	CBS/Hearst	Director: John Nicolella
The Killing Mind	Lifetime/Hearst	Director: Michael Rhodes

A Time to Remember	USA/Universal	Director: John Putch
Lucky Day	ABC/Hearst	Director: Donald Wrye
Sudie and Simpson	Lifetime/King Phoenix	Director: Joan Tewkesbury
Babies	ABC/King Phoenix	Director: Michael Ray Rhodes
Those She Left Behind	NBC	Director: Waris Hussein
God Bless the Child	ABC/King Phoenix	Director: Larry Elikan

NETWORK EXPERIENCE

Casting Consultant	Lifetime	1992-1993
Manager of Drama Casting	NBC	1987-1990

AWARDS & AFFILIATIONS

- Emmy Nomination – A Woman of Independent Means
- Artios Nominations – JFK: Reckless Youth, Wildflower, Lucky Day, God Bless the Child
- Geffen Playhouse - Advisory Board, 2010-Present
- Casting Society of America – Artios Awards - Short Film Blue Ribbon Panelist.
- Teen Star/Santa Barbara, Finalist Competition - Celebrity Judge
- Member, CSA – Casting Society of America
- Member, HECA – Higher Education Consultants of America
- Member, NCAC – National Council of Academic Counselors
- Backstage - Contributing writer

EDUCATION/SPECIAL SKILLS

- University of California, Los Angeles – BA/School of Fine Arts – 1980
- Recording Artist - Recorded a CD and performed a one-woman show at the M Bar in Los Angeles and the Metropolitan Room in New York.
- Actress, SAG, AFTRA & Equity – Performed in musical theater productions at The Lyric Theater and The Starlight Opera in San Diego and at The Theater of Light in Los Angeles.