

BASED ON TRUE EVENTS

THE
REALITY
OF
HOLLYWOOD

*The way to success
through an actor's eyes*

BENJAMIN SCHNAU

The Reality Of Hollywood - The Way To Success Through An Actor's Eyes

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Title

BENJAMIN SCHNAU

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First edition

Dedication

This book is dedicated to my mother Ines Schnau, born Ziem, and grandmother Adele Ziem, born Tiedge.

Epigraph

One thing is for certain, if you don't take action, nothing will ever happen.

- Benjamin Schnau

Preface

Before you start reading, please take a minute and read through these first couple of pages as well to understand why I wrote this book and how you should perceive the information I'm given you. My name is Benjamin Schnau and I'm a German-born actor now living in Los Angeles for half a decade. Through my time in Los Angeles, I made a lot of experiences in the industry, good and bad. This book is truly based on every single personal experience I made from the very beginning when I first came to Los Angeles up until now still being here living the dream. You might ask yourself, why is he sharing his experience with me talking openly about all the things he has been through? If that's the case I can answer it with just one word 'Integrity'. I've been through many great but also difficult situations in my life. Before making the move to Los Angeles I lived in London for 4 years coming from Germany after I lost my mother when I was 21 years old. This loss taught me the toughest lesson in life firsthand till this day by being on my own, making decisions by myself and therefore prepared me for what has been lying ahead of me. I want to share my story with you as I know that many people are out there who have the same dream and desire to become an established successful actor or actress in Hollywood. For all these people out there I want to make clear that this journey you might want to take by leaving your hometown, city, or even country won't be easy, even more challenging the longer you live here. This book is the reality of Hollywood, the truth of what I experienced, and most importantly a way of how you can go about it. For every person, the way might be different but the things I lived will happen to all of you in one way or another. This book is not written by someone who is just at the very top of the mountain looking down praising that working hard

and being persistent gets you there. Although this book will take these attributes which are important but will break them down into single pieces of what needs to be done for a completely new person in Los Angeles starting from scratch and climbing up the ladder to get where they want to be. It doesn't matter where you are from, how you look, or what language you speak. I believe there is a place for everyone in Hollywood, you just have to play your cards right and be true to yourself at all times.

If that didn't scare you off, let me tell you the reward of living your passion and making a living off of it is one of the best feelings I've ever had. Therefore taking the effort, putting yourself out of your comfort zone, and start moving is worth it. But again it's not just about moving but how to strategically position yourself in the world of (show) business.

As you will notice every topic will have questions as a title. Questions you might have always asked yourself as someone who wants to come to Hollywood. So did I. Let's start our journey by going through all the steps of what's needed and all the situations I faced doing exactly that.

I. What is the right mindset for Hollywood?

Congratulations you made it, you are in Hollywood, Los Angeles. A step that needs courage to take. It's the place where you always wanted to be, the place where actors make their dreams come true, right? But now what? How do you start all that? First and foremost you need to understand that this is going to be a marathon and we are usually talking about years. It's important to put all of it into perspective. If you believe you are making it here overnight and don't have what it takes, then you should overthink of making it as an actor in Hollywood is the right thing for you. OK, you think you got it. Then let's move on and discuss the mental state you must bring to the table to survive and make it in Hollywood. Believe it or not part of the reason why people leave Hollywood broke is cause they couldn't deal with the challenges, ups and downs, the uncertainty this industry brings with it which can affect your mental health. Therefore we will talk about the key things you should have mentally as a human being or an individual but most importantly an artist to be able to break through this mass of people who want to do and achieve the same thing as you.

Be confident but grounded

The title says it all. Be confident and grounded, but what does it mean? In this industry, you are the product if you want it or not. You need to understand what you are worth and use it to your advantage. A lot of people always have the misconception that being confident comes across as arrogant, but it's the way HOW you present yourself. That's why you should always think about where you are coming from every single day. Then always remind yourself, the success that you live today or tomorrow can be already gone the day after. It's a fast-paced environment and you have to accept that. So knowing who you are and what you are capable of makes you stronger in believing yourself and how you carry yourself on the outside. This has an effect on people which turns into respect, trust, and value of the person. Always make sure that your actions speak for themselves and louder than words. I specifically want to point out that not everyone in this town is that way, that's why trust became such a valuable asset. People in this industry like working with people who know what they can bring to the table and in the end deliver. Let them FEEL that you are that person instead of saying it.

You might ask yourself, OK, but what am I good at? What am I worth? That's a great question. The answer is 'Reflection'.

Reflection

At the beginning of your journey in the world of acting and film, you are excited about the medium. In a later chapter, we are also talking about the business side of things, but one key aspect of this is already the way how you reflect on yourself and your environment. Have you ever asked yourself who you are as a person, as a human being? If not then it's time. It is not just a valuable exercise to learn about yourself in general but discover your strengths and also weaknesses we all have as human beings. In the world of acting, as you know, it's fundamental to understand characters in how they think and say certain things. But before you can do all that you need to learn about yourself first. What makes you feel happy, confident, strong, what sad or even mean but then, how do you feel about it, say or think and how does it reflect your facial expression and body language. I don't want to sound like an acting teacher here but these discoveries are tremendously important as they will show you the emotions and behaviors you know well and are good at expressing.

As soon as you have a better idea of what that is, look more to the outside world, in your case, the film industry. What characters are being cast? What does the industry look for and how do you fit into that with the strengths you have?

After you have done that and think you have a good feeling about it, it is equally recommended that you talk to people you know but also to strangers and ask them how they perceive you when they look at you. It might sound weird to you but it's even more powerful to determine how you should go about your career. Now you might hear things you don't like or can't see yourself in and it's probably the