

RÉSUMÉ ESSENTIALS FOR ACTORS

The résumé is your first chance to make your pitch. It may be the headshot that draws the eye, but it's up to the résumé to showcase your achievements and communicate your level of professionalism and experience. It's the substance of who you are as a performer.

We contacted CSA Casting Director Paul Weber, Theatrical Agent Tim Weissman (CESD Talent Agency), Adult Broadcast Agent Melissa McQueen (Kim Dawson Agency) and Casting Director Dan Shaner to ask them what they want to see — and not see — in actors' résumés.

OUR EXPERTS SAY:

"On average most people spend approximately five to seven seconds looking at your résumé, so you want to make sure to highlight the *important* information."

— TIM WEISSMAN

"Being referred by a casting director, respected acting instructor or producer who has hired the talent" is a good way to present yourself in the best light if you have limited experience.

— MELISSA McQUEEN

"I don't like fancy layouts. Simple, easy to read, clean, straight-forward information is best. I don't need frilly text or colors or gimmicks."

— DAN SHANER

"Don't list extra work on your résumé *unless* you are a regional actor in a regional market. Producers shooting in your state like to know that you have worked on a set. But when you move to L.A. drop all of your extra credits. They won't help you here."

— PAUL WEBER

OUR EXPERTS SUGGEST:

Keep the format simple.

Make the font easy to read.

Keep résumé to one page.

Avoid typos.

Your résumé should be structured with film at the top, then TV, theater, training and, at the bottom, special skills.

Keep your credits current.

If you haven't done a lot of work, stress your training.

Leave off anything that is not directly relevant — and that includes your high school drama credits.

Do not lie. It's easy to verify information, and if you get caught, you will ruin your reputation — and word can get around the industry quickly.

... And finally, do mention you are a SAG-AFTRA member (however, you may not use the SAG-AFTRA logo).

John A. Actor

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SAG-AFTRA

List your contact information.

Film

William Henry Harrison
Fourteen Hundred Hours
The Revengers
Cargo
Early Evening in Chattanooga

President Harrison (lead)
Zot Humbert (supporting)
Lt. O'Conner (supporting)
Featured
Featured

Dir. Howard Zend/Independent
Dir. Ray Dursov/Wolf Pictures
Dir. Les Stark/Rainer Pictures
Dir. Matt Ricks/Independent
Dir. Ray Singer Risona/Independent

Television

Alaska Four-Nine
Laughlin
Detectives & Attorneys
House of Checkers

Guest Star
Guest Star
Recurring Co-Star
Co-Star

Dir. Jamie Hernandez/CBS
Dir. Sam Lykettot/Warren Bros.
Dir. Jane Weldon/TNT
Dir. Amy Delacroix/NBC

Clearly indicate your role.

Theater

Eleventh Night
Our Village

Mateo
Grover

Springfall Theater, N.Y.
St. Barclay Theater, L.A.

Education

Academy of Film Studies
Mu Mu Den Studios
Goodwell Acting Studio

BFA, Acting
Scene Study
Improv

Inst. Yancy Wilkes
Inst. Gerard Mu
Inst. Petra Qwok

Special Skills

Fluent Spanish, fluent German, singing (alto soprano), swimming (breaststroke, backstroke, freestyle), guitar teacher, **LOCAL HIRE: New Orleans**

Accents

Russian, Irish, Scottish

List if you are a local hire.

Make sure you are good at anything you list as a special skill.

(Fictional Résumé)