

Taking a Great Headshot

Headshot Definition

A headshot is a picture that a person uses as a calling card. Actors and models typically use headshots to staple their resumes for auditions, casting calls, comp cards. Musicians, business professionals, agents and artists also have headshots that let people understand their personalities. It is important that the headshot portrays the talents current look.

Number 1 Tip

1. Relax, have fun, pretend like you're not even taking pictures and be natural.

What to wear:

1. Wear what you love. Look through your closet and find several tops/shirts that make you feel confident, sexy, cocky, a world conqueror. If you bring something that you're not comfortable with, it will show in your images.
2. Women, your tops can be part of a dress
3. Make sure your shirts/tops fit well, are clean and pressed. Bring them in on hangers rather than balled up in a bag.
4. Do not wear bold patterns, logos, loud colors (like canary yellow, however, however, if in doubt and you love it, bring it as one of your options), all white or all black. Solid colors are best. Prints and patterns do not photograph nearly as well, and may take away from the focal point of the headshot--your face. *You should choose a color that compliments your skin tone and wear a top/shirt with a very simple style.*
5. Decide what type of neckline accentuates your features. If you want to elongate your neck, wear a v-neck. To show off your collarbones, wear a scoop-necked shirt. If you are large chested, make sure you wear a higher neckline unless you want to show a little cleavage.
6. Bring several choices of tops/shirts (5-10) with you to the photo shoot. This will give us options. Sometimes, what looks good in person does not look as good on camera and vice versa. Therefore, you will want to have options and be able to change your look.
7. Resist the urge to wear accessories. In terms of headshots, less is more. You want your headshot to be simple, elegant, and representative of you. Women may small wear studs, but that's about it. We do not want to add anything to the image that takes away from your wonderful face.
8. Wear makeup, but don't overdo it. You need a nice base that will photograph well, but you still want to look like yourself in the headshot.

9. You can get your makeup done for free, or at the cost of purchasing a product at many of the cosmetic stands in a department store.

Preparing for your Headshots:

1. Get a good night's sleep and don't eat anything heavy the night before.
2. When you wake up, be happy, today is going to be a fun day and you want to show that positive energy in your images.
3. Eat something healthy for breakfast, lunch so you won't be bloated in your pictures.
4. Don't get a new hair cut just before the shoot.
5. Do not try/use any new product on your hair, face or body the day before or few days before your shoot.

What to bring:

1. Your previous headshots (so we can improve)
2. Samples from magazines or other headshots to help communicate the look you want (optional)
3. Your favorite CD or MP3 player
4. Clothing (see above)
5. Good attitude
6. Lip balm
7. Hair brush/comb
8. Hair and makeup products you prefer (ladies)

Arrive with:

1. Ladies, please have your hair styled and makeup already applied (if not using makeup artist)
2. Nails manicured
3. Already dressed in first outfit

Taking a Good Headshot

1. Take natural pictures, do not pose or do anything that doesn't feel natural.
2. Look directly into the camera. It's all about your eyes. You should be drawing the person in with them.
3. Smile naturally, don't overdo it, just go with the flow and feel it. Be friendly and relaxed with the camera. You want to leave an impression on the person looking at the headshot so make it look good.



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4. Make sure the headshot looks like YOU.
5. Headshot should show your face and part of your upper body.
6. Keep your hair and hands out of your face. You want the employer or casting director to be able to see your face very well, and you don't want any part of it to be hidden.