Ken Lerner Studio Frequently Asked Questions

What is your philosophy of acting?

To separate yourself from the rest of the actors auditioning, you have to bring your essence to the room. Be yourself. By that I mean bring to the part what makes YOU unique: your laugh, your sense of humor, your anger, your soul. Don’t hide it. That’s what they’re looking for. That’s what makes you special.

What is the experience level of students at the Ken Lerner Studio? Do you take beginners?

My students range from experienced actors to beginners. When assigning scenes, I pair seasoned actors with their peers and newbies with newbies. Everybody learns from watching and new actors can quickly move up as they get better. When it comes to cold reading, I adjust the material according to the skill level of the student.

Do you have to audition to get into the Ken Lerner Studio?

No. Ken does not require an audition. However, he does require you to audit class, which is free. At the audit, you will be interviewed by Ken to see if you have a passion for acting and are serious about your training.

What is the cost of classes at the Ken Lerner Studio?

Scene Study/Cold Reading class is $200 a month. Payments are due the first week of the month. Ken takes cash, checks or credit cards through Paypal.

How often do I get to work in class?

In Cold Reading class, you will work every week. In Scene Study class, I guarantee that you will work two times a month but sometimes you will have the opportunity to work more often if you are motivated.

Do you get me an agent or a job?

No I do not and if any acting teacher promises you that they can, run the other way! Once in a while, a director, agent or manager comes to class and I am occasionally asked to recommend people for projects, however, this is not a guarantee. When I have confidence in a student’s abilities, professionalism and drive, I have recommended them to agents and managers.

Which class is right for me? Scene Study or Cold Reading?

Cold Reading is for actors who are currently auditioning or who have time constraints. It teaches you to take audition material and make immediate decisions on script interpretation and choices that will make your acting come to life. Ken can teach you his foolproof formula for booking jobs.
Scene Study is for actors who want to deepen their acting skills. Scene Study requires more of a time commitment because you must memorize the material Ken assigns you, rehearse it with your scene partner and stage the scene in class using wardrobe and props. It is a two or even three week process. In cold reading, you are given the material a half hour before class and must perform the work in class immediately opposite someone who is reading flat (like a casting director.)

In both classes, Ken himself chooses materially especially for you. He uses scripts from movies, television shows, pilots and plays. Some of the material is current; some classic. Ken’s critique includes script interpretation, hottest acting choices and how to stretch yourself in the part.

**What makes Ken Lerner’s classes special?**

Ken has the distinction of having taught for his mentor Roy London, who chose Ken to teach Cold Reading. Ken has been a working actor for 36 years and has tons of experience to pass on to you from being on sets and having done thousands of auditions. Auditioning actors often wonder: How should I dress? Should I bring props? Should I memorize the material? Do I sit? Do I stand? What if the casting director is inattentive? Because Ken is not simply a teacher but is a working actor who himself auditions and books jobs constantly, he not only answers these questions but also shares with you fresh examples of situations that arise on sets and at auditions. He will share with you the secrets to getting jobs and then guide you once you have them.

Ken has studied with the best acting teachers of our time and worked in the industry for more than three decades. In so doing, he has honed a philosophy of acting and shares his secrets with you. Ken is noted for his script interpretation and gentle nurturing of his actors.

**How will I know if I am ready to audition or look for an agent?**

Not only will Ken will let you know, but you yourself will sense when you are ready. It will all come together for you if you do the work and are not in a hurry for stardom. It is a learning process—not easy but very rewarding once you “get” the technique. Everyone works at their own level and their own pace. With experience comes the confidence to seek new levels.

**How do I get headshots and resumes?**

Ken’s website has listed some resources. Once you’ve gotten your headshots, Ken will give you the benefit of his advice on which pictures to choose and how to compose your resume.

**Does Ken do private coaching?**

Yes. Ken does private coaching from his office. Ken also travels to sets and coaches on location. Ken has been hired by several networks and producers to coach stars of pilots and movies on set and has travelled across the country to do cold reading seminars. Ken
also works with non-pros to help them with public speaking and on camera work, including commercials and industrials.

**How do I book private coaching or sign up for class?**

Call 818-753-7744 and you can set up a private session. Ken charges $100 an hour and $60 for a half hour. To sign up for class, leave your e-mail address on the website LINK TK or call 818-753-7744 and leave a message with your information.

**Do you use a camera in class?**

Not at this time but we allow students to videotape their work.

**Do you have guest lecturers?**

Frequently, when there are five weeks in a month, the last week is dedicated to bringing in professionals from the business. For instance, we bring in agents, managers, casting directors and directors as guest lecturers. We also bring in people from the technical side of the business to help you create and update DVD’s, your acting reels, headshots and marketing materials.

**Has Ken ever done showcases or directed his students from class in productions?**

Yes. Ken has directed two productions of his students. Ken had the distinction of directing his students in the West Coast premiere of “Closer” by Patrick Marber and a comedy, “Shrink Resistant.” Ken also directed his students in a showcase that was attended by agents, managers, directors and other industry professionals.