

Our Top Story

Keys to Quality Casting

They say entertainment thrives in hard times and Pittsburgh's film and television industry is no exception— for good reason. Shooting in our diverse city offers lots of options, including a rich pool of talented actors. The key for producers is to make sure you see them. That means hiring an A-list Casting Director. As you search for a Casting Company in Pittsburgh, be sure to ask these key questions:

Pedigree:

Has the casting company earned industry respect?

Experience:

Does the casting company have a proven track record?

Scope:

Can the casting company present talent options its competitors cannot?

Performance:

Is the casting company professional, on-target and cost-effective?

Results:

Is the casting company endorsed by your peers?

Answers to Key Questions: Part I

We can speak only for ourselves; and since your time is short, we'll do it as a mini-series, answering just one question per **NewsCAST**.

Pedigree: Donna Belajac Casting

- Pittsburgh's **first and longest** continuously operating casting company
- Pittsburgh's **only Emmy Award-winning** casting company
- Pittsburgh's only company that **casts supporting roles typically reserved for NY and LA actors**
- Pittsburgh's only casting director inducted into the **Casting Society of America (CSA)**
- **2008 CSA Artios Award Nominee** for Outstanding Achievement in Location Casting ("Smart People")
- **2008 Opal Award winner** for contributions to Pittsburgh film and television industry

Watch for "Answers to Key Questions — Part II" in a NewsCAST to come.

Congratulations:

Pittsburgh ADDY Award Winners of 2008!

Blender, Inc.
Brunner
Garrison Hughes
GBL, Inc.
Smith Brothers Agency
Wall-to-Wall Studios



Casting Director and Talent Agent Will Never Be the Same!

If you've never thought about the difference between a Casting Director and a Talent Agent, you're not alone. In fact, many producers use the terms — and the people — interchangeably, even though their functions are quite different.

So how can a producer tell the difference between a Casting Director and a Talent Agent?

Hint: The Casting Director is the one who works for **you**.

Here's the scoop

Casting Directors work exclusively for producers. They are paid by you to find the right talent for you. Agents work strictly for actors. They are paid by talent to secure auditions for talent.

Here's the rule of thumb

Call a **Talent Agency** when:

- When you are content with limiting your choices to talent represented by that agency
- You are choosing models for print work

Call a **Casting Company** when

- You want the widest possible selection of the best candidates for each role — in and outside the agency system

This Just In

On Screen

Donna Belajac is now casting the Lionsgate feature film **Warrior** and the CBS pilot **Three Rivers** — both shooting in Pittsburgh this spring.

"Donna Belajac Casting is as good as any LA casting director I've ever worked with. Our director on "Smart People" was extremely demanding and Donna was totally pro — terrific temperament, great follow-through and every face in the local cast was spot-on."

Bridget Johnson, Producer, "Smart People"

On Air

Donna Belajac recently cast these regional spots

- Wheeling Island
- Ohio Lottery
- Cedar Point

"Some producers go to Chicago when their clients need 'Midwest' casting in addition to LA and New York. Rocky (Rocky Morton, MJZ Pictures, Los Angeles) and I use Donna Belajac in Pittsburgh. We've worked together on spots for Apple, Hallmark Cards, GE, Haggard and she never fails to come up with diverse and interesting looking talent."

Mimi Webb-Miller, Casting Director, Los Angeles, CA