

PART 1: About me and my company, BAM Casting, LLC.

Hi, my name is Brinkley A. Maginnis, and I am owner of Louisiana's premiere local casting company called BAM Casting, LLC.

For any given production that comes to Louisiana, whether it is a television commercial or a huge blockbuster feature film, we provide them with the local actors and background they are seeking. We cast both the "speaking" (local actors/actresses) and "non-speaking" (local background) roles for these productions, and the directors and producers are always blown away with the extraordinary talent little 'ol Louisiana has to offer!

For the local speaking roles we cast, we go through the Louisiana agencies to audition the talent that they represent and train. From these auditions, the Director of the movie or television show will make the final call on who he/she would like to cast in their project.

For the background artists (or "Extras"), I usually hold huge open casting calls in and around the areas of where the production will be filming. Therefore, this will give locals (who may not be trained actors) opportunities to be in these movies as well!

With so many movies going on in the state of Louisiana, there will be great opportunities for every individual to be a part of them, whether they always dreamed of being an actor or just had that random thought every once in a while of, "Hmm, I wonder what it would be like to be in a movie for a day..."

Now is the time to act, so get out there and take hold of this dream while Hollywood is right here at your fingertips!!

PART 2: Some BAM Casting Lagniappe! ;-)

When it comes to Louisiana talent, one of my favorite stories I love to share is about the "inaccurate/preconceived notions" that most directors and producers have when they first arrive here.

If a director or producer has never been to Louisiana before, much less filmed a movie here, they often have trepidation and anxiety over finding local talent that can measure up to the standard of acting of their L.A. talent. I have to admit, though, if I were them, I would probably do the same thing! These movies are their babies, their pride and joy, stories that they have often worked on for years to get to this final stage of leaping off the script page to the silver screen! To know they are coming into completely foreign Cajun territory, I might be a little worried at first glance, too.

Upon arriving to film their movies in Louisiana, both director Renny Harlin and director Oliver Stone expressed their concerns to me regarding the level of acting our local talent possessed. Harlin came to Shreveport in 2007 to film "Cleaner," and Stone set up shop in Shreveport in 2008 to film, "W."

In my first meetings with them, similar stories occurred.

Both Harlin and Stone wanted to see headshots and resumes for the roles they had in mind that would be cast out of Louisiana. My partner and I brought files and files of actors' headshots to show them, but stressed to them to please refrain from making any remarks until they saw the talent live and in person. They did just this, and after our first round of auditions, both Harlin and Stone had equal reactions.

With a shocked look on his face, Renny Harlin sat back in his chair and said in his Finnish accent, "I saw 10 to 15 A-List actors in L.A. for some of these roles, and I think I just cast my entire movie here in this one session with you." Similarly, Oliver Stone turned to me and said, "Where did you find some of this talent? They are terrific and actually have a 'life' besides focusing on acting 24-7."

To say the least, to hear these words of praise about our talent from two of the most honored professionals in the film industry was very humbling. Even more so, though, it was encouraging and motivating for me to continue to fight for my Louisiana talent and the incredible levels of talent they possess, which needs to be shared with us (and Hollywood) on the silver screen!

So to all of you Southern actors out there, I am here to say you have Oliver Stone's and Renny Harlin's stamp of approval: Keep up the good work and don't give up!