

## Casting Breakdown Sample

### Casting Breakdown

*Casting services will usually provide their own format for a breakdown but this template details the information required. Casting breakdowns must be submitted to and approved before submitting to an online service like Casting Workbook or Mandy.com*

*Delete italicized instructions, replace examples with your project's information.*

**Example Short Drama** 10 min

**TITLE:** *Example: "FILM TITLE"*

Producer: *Name*

Director: *Name*

Casting Director: *Name*

Audition Location:

Shooting Location:

Script Availability: *Date the script will be sent to actors*

Contact Info: *Name of casting director, producer or director*

Telephone:

Email:

Auditions: *Date*

Shooting Starts: *Date*

Shooting Finishes: *Date*

Rates & Union: ACTRA STUDENT AGREEMENT

(no fee but union and non-union performers are eligible).

**LOGLINE:** *One to two-line pitch*

**SYNOPSIS:** *Four to six-line synopsis – the plot, with first mention of character names in CAPITALS. The casting breakdown for a small film should be no more than two pages, maximum.*

*Example:* A Canadian foreign aid worker [LISA FISCHER] is being held for ransom in Darfur. Her young captor [JACOB] is a child-soldier and product of his country's turmoil. In Ottawa, Lisa's husband [DANIEL FISCHER] seeks help from the Canadian government to arrange a ransom payment. His case worker [MPUMI MAYANE] is a Sudanese refugee; when she breaks the rules to help the couple, a surprising connection between the two worlds is revealed.

**CHARACTERS:** *Examples: Note first line is the size of the role – Lead, Principal or Actor (5 lines or less), then the character name, then the gender (if it matters), then the age range, then the ethnicity (if it matters). Finally, highlight special requirements – e.g. accent, particular skill. Sometimes casting directors will describe the major principal roles as Principal – Lead or Large Principal. Those distinctions tend to be more important in series and features.*

*Avoid physical descriptions unless essential to the story, e.g. bodybuilder. Focus the description on the key challenge facing the character or the significant action or decision of the character.*

**PRINCIPAL** - MPUMI MAYANE - Female, 35-50, Black, Sudanese accent required

A refugee from Darfur, Mpumi works in the Canadian Foreign Affairs department. Her past haunts her: her parents murdered; her brother kidnapped. The cases that continually cross her desk, like that of Daniel and Lisa, provide her both with the opportunity to try and obtain news of her brother and the growing certainty that she will never be able to learn what happened to him.

**PRINCIPAL** - DANIEL FISCHER - Male, 30-45. Canadian.

A man deeply in love with his wife, Daniel comes to Foreign Affairs assuming they will help ransom Lisa. When he is turned down, his initial indignation turns to desperation, and he returns to beg Mpumi for any assistance she can provide.

**PRINCIPAL** - LISA FISCHER - Female, 30-45. Canadian.

An NGO worker in Africa, Lisa knows she has to keep her wits about her if she is to survive her captivity. Her one hope is to create a bond with her captor, so that Jacob begins to see her as a fellow human being rather than the white, foreign, enemy. She finds it more and more difficult to fend off panic as she realizes she is doomed.

**PRINCIPAL** - JACOB - Male, Youth, 15-25. Black, Sudanese accent required.

A child-soldier, Jacob is thoroughly indoctrinated into the rebels' point of view – all that matters is money and power. Compassion is a luxury he cannot afford.

He knows that the moment will come when he will see Lisa die, perhaps he will even be the one who is ordered to kill her.

**ACTOR** - NAME – Sex, age range, ethnicity/nationality or open

*ACTRA definition: speaks or mimes 5 lines of dialogue or fewer, whose performance constitutes an individual characterization with or without dialogue.*