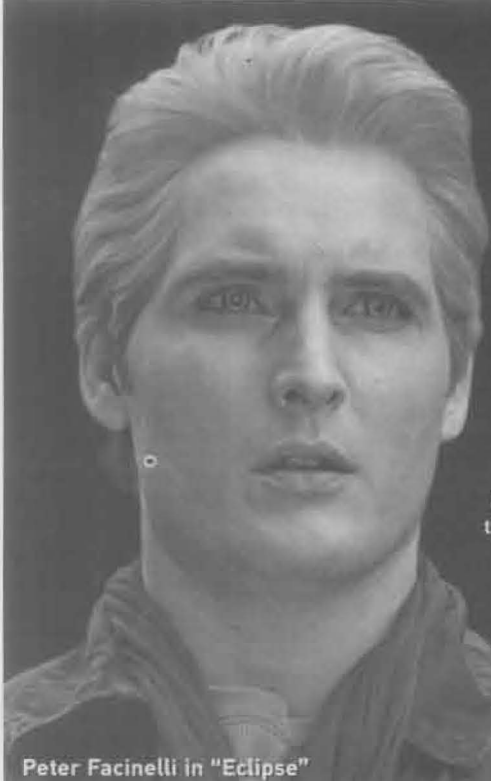


IN THEIR OWN WORDS

We asked some of our favorite actors about getting their SAG cards, audition horror stories, and other aspects of their careers.



**Peter Facinelli...
on auditioning:**

“ I was attending NYU. They have a strict absence policy: Three absences and you're kicked out. I was auditioning on the side and had about 10 absences and begged them to let me stay. I had been auditioning for almost a year and hadn't booked anything. At the start of my final semester, I booked a lead guest-starring role in a 'Law & Order' episode. I was going to have to miss a week of school. Crap. It was a new semester, so I'd already have five absences. Two over the limit. I figured I'd take the job and beg NYU to let me stay later. On the set, I met Dick Wolf and we got along well. I guess he liked what I was doing, because he asked me if I would be interested in doing another guest-starring role in a new show he had, a short-lived series named 'The Wright Verdicts.' I would have to take off another two weeks of school. I knew there was no way NYU would go for it, so I decided to take the semester off and finish up my last 15 credits the next semester. But I kept booking jobs, and I never went back. About 10 years later, I was up for outstanding performance by an ensemble in a drama series at the SAG Awards for 'Six Feet Under,' which I had guest-starred on that season. I saw Dick Wolf there and we started talking. I said, 'You know, Dick, I was 15 credits from graduating and dropped out of college to do your shows. So you're the reason I don't have my diploma. But...you're the reason I got my SAG card. So it's a good tradeoff.' **”**

Peter Facinelli in "Eclipse"