

# DIATRIBE

## CASTING PACK – ROLE: FIONN

**Director:** Shaun O'Connor

**Writer:** Paul Cahill

**Shooting:** Early 2026, Kerry, Ireland (approx. 4 weeks)

**Rate:** Paid (low-budget feature, industry standard indie rates)

### Role: FIONN

**Age:** Actor must be 18+ but able to believably play 16–17.

**Character:** Teenager. Shy, awkward, creative. Obsessed with gaming, comics, and TikTok. He projects bravado online but struggles with insecurity & isolation. Over the story he is drawn into a dangerous mentor relationship, moving between vulnerability, anger, and defiance.

### Requirements:

- Must be 18+ for licensing / legal reasons
- Must be able to play 16 convincingly
- Comfortable with emotionally intense scenes
- Strong on-camera presence, naturalistic performance
- Available for location shoot in Kerry

### How to Submit:

Send self-tapes as a downloadable link (Vimeo, WeTransfer, Google Drive, YouTube) to:  
[shaunoconnor@gmail.com](mailto:shaunoconnor@gmail.com)

Subject line: FIONN – [Your Name]

Include: Headshot, CV, confirmation of age & availability.

Please name file: FIONN\_[FirstNameLastName].mp4

### SELF-TAPE INSTRUCTIONS – FIRST ROUND

**Slate:** Name, age, location, confirm you are 18+.

**Scenes:** Please record the three sides attached (TikTok intro, Kitchen confrontation, Outburst).

**Format:** TikTok scene should be filmed vertically (phone style). Dialogue scenes should be horizontal. Ensure clear lighting & sound. Have someone read the other characters' lines.

**Performance Notes:** Keep it subtle and naturalistic - - avoid theatrical style. We want authenticity and emotional truth. Some improvisation welcome in the TikTok intro.

*Do not share these sides publicly.*

# **SELF-TAPE SIDES: FIONN**

## **Scene 1 – TikTok Intro (projecting confidence / weakness)**

### **Context:**

Fionn, alone in his bedroom, is recording on his phone the first video for his new TikTok channel. He's trying to project confidence and enthusiasm, but his nerves and self-doubt keep creeping in and breaking the illusion. We want to see both the performance "persona" and the private, insecure side that leaks through.

Black screen.

Phone camera clicks on. Poor image. Vertical orientation.

FIONN, 16, a thin, pale teenager, is in his bedroom. Looks down the lens at us, fixes his hair and clothes.

He's visibly nervous - a long, awkward pause and then:

Take 1:

FIONN

Yo yo, yo, what's up, Fionn C here  
and this is my very first video!  
Guys I am SO hyped to finally start  
this channel. If you're into  
gaming, comics, mewvies --  
(breaks character)  
-mewviews, a mewvie? Hey, let's  
watch a mewvie. Come on. Get it  
right. Fucking idiot. Get it right.

Take 2:

FIONN (CONT'D)

Yo yo, what is UP? Fionn C here and  
this is my very first video! Guys,  
I am SO hyped to finally start this  
channel. If you're into gaming,  
comics, movies you've come to the  
right place. I've got some WILD  
stuff coming your way. I'm gonna be  
posting new content just about  
every other day and trust me--  
(breaks character again)  
No, no, NO! Every day, every day,  
idiot, you're posting new content  
every day! Okay, okay --

Take 3:

FIONN (CONT'D)

Yo yo yo, what is UP? Fionn C here  
and this is my very first video! I  
am SO hyped to finally start this  
channel. If you're into gaming,  
comics, movies you've come to the  
right place cos I've got some WILD  
stuff coming your way. I'm gonna be  
posting new content every single  
day and trust me, you don't wanna  
miss what's next. So make sure you  
hit that follow button and drop a  
comment below with what you wanna  
see me do! Let's GO cos it's about  
to get CRAZY-

(MORE)

FIONN (CONT'D)  
 (breaks character again)  
 It's about to be crazy.  
 It's gonna get crazy.  
 It's crazy.  
 It's...  
 (beat)  
 Loser.

Beat. Fionn staring into the abyss.

## Scene 2 – Confrontation with Olivia & Eóin (Family Tension)

*Fionn tries to leave the house to see his new mentor (Shepherd) but Olivia blocks him. Fionn lashes out at his parents, insisting Shepherd is the only one who understands him. He blurts out that Shepherd is his “only friend,” then, humiliated and cornered, hurls an insult at his mother before storming upstairs. This scene should move from sullen defiance to raw vulnerability, with flashes of anger and hurt. We want to see the actor capture Fionn’s teenage volatility, the way he pushes back, pleads to be understood, and then lashes out when he feels trapped.*

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
Where do you think you are going?

FIONN  
(innocent)  
Just going out.

OLIVIA  
Going out where?

FIONN  
Out to talk to Shepherd.

OLIVIA  
(turning on him)  
No, you’re not. You stay away from him. Do you hear me, Fionn?

FIONN  
What? Why should I?

OLIVIA  
Cause we – your parents – we are telling you to. You heard what he called me last night.

FIONN  
You were both arguing. You were both debating. Like YOU wanted–

OLIVIA  
What Shepherd said to me was deeply offensive. That wasn’t what I wanted. As for what he was saying –

Fionn moves to push past her. She blocks him, firm.

FIONN  
What are you doing? Move.

OLIVIA  
Don't you DARE talk to me like  
that!

FIONN  
(spins away from her)  
Don't, don't you DARE do this to  
me, don't you DARE do this to me!

EÓIN  
Calm down. Everyone take a breath.

FIONN  
No, no, NO!

EÓIN  
Shepherd doesn't go near us and we  
don't go near him. That's just how  
it is going to be until he leaves.

FIONN  
You don't get it -- both of you --  
you never, never get it!

OLIVIA  
Get what?

Fionn is almost tearing his hair out.

FIONN  
Shepherd is the only person who  
actually listens to me, the only  
person who understands who I am.  
Don't you get that?  
(almost to himself)  
He was my only, my only--

EÓIN  
Your only what?

FIONN  
(blurts out)  
Friend.

A beat as everyone takes that in.

OLIVIA  
I'm sorry. But we don't like him,  
we don't trust him and we don't  
want him anywhere near you. Do you  
understand that, Fionn?

Fionn looks at Eoin, who nods. Fionn turns back to his mum.

FIONN  
He was right, you know?  
(calms down a little)  
Shepherd was right.

OLIVIA  
Fionn, he doesn't know the first  
thing about climate science --

FIONN  
--you are a bitch.

And with that stinger, he runs upstairs. A door SLAMS.

### **Scene 3 – Lake with Shepherd (Liberation & Influence)**

*Fionn and Shepherd are standing by a lake, fishing. Shepherd has just watched one of Fionn's TikTok videos and tells him it's good, but he needs to be bolder, louder, more confident. He pushes Fionn to shout across the water. At first Fionn is embarrassed and hesitant, but under Shepherd's encouragement he lets go: laughing, shouting, feeling the thrill of release. This is about Fionn's eagerness to impress, his awkward vulnerability, and the dangerous excitement of being swept up by Shepherd's energy.*



EXT. MOUNTAIN LAKE - DAY

Fionn casts a line into the lake.

Shepherd stands close up, phone in hand, watching Fionn's TikTok video intently.

The video cuts off. Shepherd looks thoughtful.

SHEPHERD

I like it.

Fionn shakes his head.

FIONN

No, you don't.

SHEPHERD

The video quality? Sure, could do with some tweaks. And you could use a decent mic, maybe a couple of lights to make it really pop. But the content is good. And the presenter? He's got it.

FIONN

Yeah. Sure.

SHEPHERD

You're a natural, Fionn.

FIONN

A natural joke, maybe. Look at the comments. Actually, don't.

SHEPHERD

You know, when you put yourself out there, try something different, think different, you're gonna get pushback. These comments? They're just noise. The chattering of little people who thrive on tearing others down.

He pauses, locking eyes with Fionn.

SHEPHERD (CONT'D)  
Are you gonna let these trolls stop  
you? Are you really going to let  
these idiots prevent you from doing  
something great?

FIONN  
(quietly)  
Well, no.

SHEPHERD  
I didn't hear that.

FIONN  
No.

SHEPHERD  
Say it like you mean it.

FIONN  
No!

SHEPHERD  
Say it like you really believe it!

FIONN  
(shouting into the air)  
NO!

Fionn's final shout of "NO!" rings out, reverberating across  
the lake and fading into the stillness of the mountains.

SHEPHERD  
Shhhh. Not so loud. You'll scare  
the fish.