Welcome to Mr. Brown’s top secret acting tips! (530,000,102 “likes”)

THE SCRIPT

The action in a play or film, unless it is a completely improvised piece, begins with a script. While it is not always the case, assume the script has been carefully crafted, and all considerations have been dealt with by the writer. Your job is not to change the script. Your job is to make the words work.

**CREATING A CHARACTER**

As an actor, part of making the words work is the actor’s interpretation of the text and his/her choices about character. Character choices should only come after careful examination of the text has occurred. Here are some tips:

* What do you *know* about the character? (You can discover this by looking at what the character *says*, *does* and *thinks*, and what other characters *say* or *think* about him/her and *how they* *interact* with him/her.)
* WHO are they talking to in the scene? What is the relationship between your character and the other character(s)? Is the relationship on solid ground? Is it in flux?
* WHY is your character saying what he/she is saying?
* Is there a *change in your character* from beginning of the scene or play until the end? What causes this?
* WHAT does your character *say*? Is it true? Is it a lie?
* Identify character traits that can be applied to the scene.
* How does the character *move*? What is his posture like? How does she enter? Do the physical movements *change* depending on the line?
* Where was your character *before* the scene?
* Why does your character do what they do and go where they go? (Motivation)
* What does the character *want*? (Intention)
* What line of *yours* in the scene is the *most important* to your character? Why?
* What line of *other characters* in the scene is the *most important* to your character? Why?
* What will happen to your character *after* the scene?
* Does your character *learn* anything in the scene?
* Does your character *connect* with you in any way? (You may need to look for an “as if”.)

**MEMORIZING A SCRIPT**

Memorizing a script is never easy. Sometimes certain parts come easier than others. When you are challenged by a script, consider the following:

* Divide your script into a beginning, middle and end. Focus on the last line of one section and the first line of the next one. This may help you organize your character’s thoughts.
* Read each word individually and consider other meanings of the word. (Similes) Constantly repeat the text word and string together.
* Create mental images of what you look like delivering the lines. What do you see? Once you begin blocking, the mental images will include movements which will help you memorize.
* Determine the importance of the lines.
* Assign an emotional state to each of the three parts of your script.
* Read and re-read while answering the 5 W’s in addition to the questions above.
* Read the script lines backwards. Knowing what comes before will help you remember where you “are” and where you “need to go”. Always go back to the beginning after this exercise and try again.
* Physically write out only your lines with a pen or a pencil. Try to remember the cues (other character’s lines) that come between.

IT IS IMPORTANT IN A COLLABORATIVE PIECE TO REMEMBER TO REMAIN OPEN TO CHANGING YOUR CHOICES AS YOU GO. IN OTHER WORDS, JUST BECAUSE YOUR SCRIPTWORK AND CHARACTER CREATION MAY SEEM “DONE”, IT ***RARELY*** IS, BECAUSE INTERACTION WITH OTHER CHARACTERS AND WITH THE DIRECTOR MAY (SHOULD) LEAD YOU TO CHANGE YOUR APPROACH TO THE CHARACTER IN SOME WAY. YOU MAY CHANGE YOUR CHOICES SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE DECIDING WHAT’S “RIGHT”. EVEN THEN, YOU MAY GO BACK TO YOUR ***FIRST*** CHOICE!

BE OPEN, YET STRONG. SPEAK AND LISTEN. TAKE CHANCES AND TRY TO HAVE FUN DOING IT.

Remember…..

***IF YOU PUT IN THE WORK DURING THE PROCESS, THE PRODUCT WILL BE BETTER.***

ENJOY!