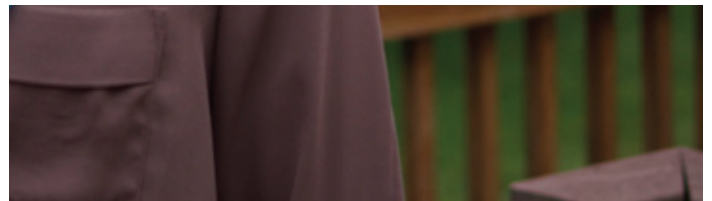




ACTING TIPS

Developing Your Character

by Ryan Pickett and Theresa Pickett



Studying acting techniques is important to your performance as an actor. Being an actor requires more than natural talent and a Hollywood look. To develop your character, you must explore the character in the context of the script as well as beyond the script. Movie directors, who have their vision for how a scene will play out, will give some coaching to actors, but will also rely on actors to know how to analyze a character. Review some acting tips as you delve into thinking through your scene.

READ BEYOND THE SCRIPT

Comprehending the script is key to developing your character. Visualize your scenes as you read the lines. Picture how the scene could play out in your head. As you study your lines, read the whole script if available. To understand how your role fits in the script, you want to know what comes before and after your part.

DETERMINE YOUR OBJECTIVE

While studying your lines, decide what your character's objective is. An objective is the main goal of the character. You may discover multiple objectives. After determining the objective, figure out the main obstacle that prevents your character from getting what he or she wants. Reacting to the obstacle gives your character motivation. Show your understanding of your objective as well as the obstacle as you raise the stakes to reveal the depth of your character.

USE EMOTIONAL RECALL

To connect with your lines, use emotional recall. Link the sad moments in the script to sad moments that have happened in your life. Happy moments in the script should stir up your emotions from the happiest times you have had. When you have trouble accessing the emotions in the script, use multiple senses to recall a similar event that happened in your life many years ago. When using emotional recall, choose an event in your life that you have resolved completely. You should have control of your emotions during your performance as you dig deeper and connect with your character.

