

BEGINNING ACTING Summary of important ideas.

DO PAPERWORK FOR STARRED ACTIVITIES

Meisner:

- Acting is about finding the reality of your acting choice adjustment doing, or *tactic* in the behavior of the other.

Hagen:

- Handle objects as if each tells a story.
 - * Plan your entrance: What did I just do? What am I doing right now? What is the first thing that I want?
- Find Trigger Objects to help you trigger emotion.
- For Sense memory concentrate on one body part.

Stanislavski:

- Fulfill concrete physical actions; helps to create emotion, character, and gets results.
- Use the Magic If when needed.
- Adjust to your partner's behavior.
- * Find the Super—objective in your scene.

Lewis:

- Intention #1.
- * Express intention in terms of a verb. (Verb your script).
- Energize!

Strasberg:

- Release tension; especially in your face.
- Use improvisation to solve actor's problems.

Adler:

- Truth is in the truth of the circumstances of the character.
- Play actions; smarten them; use verbs.
- Smarten entrances; use props or give it an odd circumstance.
- personalize props
- Justify all choices.
 - *Do Character Study: Social Situation, Class, Profession, Background (who, what, when, where, why) & (family and beliefs), Attitude toward Partner, Attitude Overall, Level of Character (light, medium or dark), Dialogue (indicate on opposite page your actions, moods, and activities).

Chekhov:

- *Find the center of your character.
- *Find the psychological Gesture for your character.
- *Is your character Radiating or Receiving?

McNally:

- * Do a Purpose Statement Chart Play, Part, P.S., Key Line.
 - *Use active verbs (choices)
 - *Create a Dream Ending scene for each of your characters.
 - * Identify Tempos for each character & create a Tempo Chart for your scene.

Mamet:

- * Complete Steps 1 through 6 on the handout.

Hagen:

-Plan your entrance:

- I have just returned from another night of sitting in the park, watching and observing the gay community. As always I have concluded that I can hide my inner feelings and live a “normal” life, as seen through the eyes of God.
- Right now I have just returned to my apartment, dreading that I will again have to face my wife and her questioning.
- The first thing that I want is to do is sit down and relax without any interruptions.

Stanislavski:

-Find the Super-objective:

- Justifying my choices to a distant lover.

Lewis:

-Verbing:

- See script

Adler:

-Character Study:

- The play takes place in the mid-80’s when the ~MDS epidemic is in full force and yet it is still being ignored by the government. Joe is a middle class guy with somewhat conservative views. He lives in New York City with his wife in a small apartment. He works as a chief clerk for the Federal Court of Appeals. His income is moderate, but he is highly underpaid. Joe was born and raised a Mormon in Salt Lake City, Utah. He has a strong faith, but the fact that he is gay tears him apart. His relationship with Harper is suffering greatly. He fell in love with her because, unlike him, she stood out back in Utah. She was somewhat a rebel-and he was attracted to her because she was somewhat of an outcast -much like he felt he was due to his homosexuality. He loves her as a person but the two should never have gotten married. Joe leads a double life. He is a very professional, easy going guy during the day and lives his life as a straight, middle-American guy. At night he explores the “darker” side within himself and seeks out the gay culture and observes that community in order to satisfy his curiosity. Lately these two lives have been merging together, dangerously in the eyes of Joe. He is a medium character.

Chekhov:

-Radiating or Receiving?

- Most often Joe is a receiving character and never really speaks out but rather goes through life without much voice. However, there are times when he radiates with extreme force to make up for his submissive lifestyle.

McNally:

-Purpose statement Chart:

Mamet:

-Step One: List of what the character does

- Joe enters the apartment.
- Joe dodges Harper's questioning.
- Joe pleads for Harper to ask her question directly.
- Joe is thrown off by Harper's question
- Joe tests Harper's views.
- Joe asks Harper to pray with him.
- Joe opens up to Harper.
- Joe exposes his views on Harper while trying to regain composure.
- Joe discovers Harper may be pregnant.

-Step Two: Literal Action Statement

- Joe is having an argument with Harper.

-Step Three: Essential Action Statement

- Forcing a distant lover to accept my choices.

-Step Four: As if

- It's as if I'm trying to explain to my angry parents why I had to borrow their car.

-Step Five: Tools

- To demand, to dodge, to belittle, to justify, to plead, to level, to threaten.

-Step Six: Nature of Relationship

- Joe and Harper have been married for a few years and things have been going down ever since. Joe is disgusted by Harper's appearance and drug use. He has little tolerance for her but he does love her. He has no sexual attraction towards her and pities her very much. He knows he is the only
- one that she has and that also makes him very secure, in a way. The two are constantly feuding because Joe hides so much from Harper and believes her to be naïve about things.