

ACTING WORKSHOP

Instructor: Aubrey Saverino

• *MATERIALS NEEDED- Shakespeare Monologue(s) and Tactics Sheet*

Warm Up/Check-In 5 min

- Physical/Vocal Warm-up (importance of a check in!)
- Stop Go Jump Clap (switching it up (like tactics), boring if one thing)

Review Basic Plot of the Play 5 min

*King **Leontes** of Sicilia's has had a long visit from his childhood friend, King Polixenes. Leontes's pregnant wife, **Hermione**, pleads with Polixenes to stay a little longer. Leontes becomes possessed with jealousy—convinced that Polixenes and Hermione are lovers, and publicly accuses his wife of infidelity, and declares that the child she is bearing illegitimate. Hermione falls in a swoon and is carried away by **Paulina**, who subsequently reports the queen's death to her heart-broken and repentant husband*

Character Work: Adjectives & Viewpoints: 5 min

- Come up with a word to describe each character. For example
 - Leontes: Jealous
 - Hermione: Gracious
 - Paulina: Protective
- Take the words they come up with and do **Viewpoints** (Anne Bogart) with the words we came up with. Walk around the room with each feeling- jumping back and forth between the adjectives. How does it feel in your body and change the way you walk, move

Tactic and/or Chair Exercise as Group: 5-10 min

- **Objective/Tactics:** What does a character want/how do they get it? (Change Tactics when you change the Beat)
- Tactics as **Action Verbs** (I ___ you): *accuse, demand, reject, warn, adore, flatter, dismiss, ridicule, welcome, amuse, flatter scold worship annoy idolize soothe challenge beg ignore startle defend belittle instruct taunt humor charm lure teach entertain coax mock tease bribe comfort pester tempt confront plead threaten*

Read Monologue together, to end of each significant punctuation 5/10 min

- Note **Punctuation**/When thoughts switch (Explain what **units** and **beats** are)
 - Units = big chunks (usually divide into 3), beats = smaller chunks
 - Significant punctuation = period, question marks, semicolon, exclamation, colon
- Note **Power/Operative** words (words that hold the meaning)
- Make sure everyone understands the meaning of the words

Work on Monologue: 10 min

- Grid Walk & Turn: Read monologue out loud, walking on a grid, turning every time you feel a **beat** change or something shift.
- (if time) Work in Groups/pairs and mark which different beats happen in the monologue, practice delivering each beat with a different tactic & prep for presentation

Presentation 10-15 min

- Have a few students present the monologue, switch student everytime significant beat change
- Try different physical choices, pacing, delivery etc & get feedback

MATERIALS for ACTING WORKSHOP

WINTER'S TALE by William Shakespeare

The following is Hermione's response to her husband, King Leontes, when he accuses her of infidelity and tells her as punishment she should "Look for no less than death".

HERMIONE

Sir, spare your threats:

The bug which you would fright me with I seek.

To me can life be no commodity:

The crown and comfort of my life, your favour,

I do give lost; for I do feel it gone,

But know not how it went. My second joy

And first-fruits of my body, from his presence

I am barr'd, like one infectious. My third comfort

Starr'd most unluckily, is from my breast,

The innocent milk in its most innocent mouth,

Haled out to murder: myself on every post

Proclaimed a strumpet: with immodest hatred

The child-bed privilege denied, which 'longs

To women of all fashion; lastly, hurried

Here to this place, i' the open air, before

I have got strength of limit. Now, my liege,

Tell me what blessings I have here alive,

That I should fear to die? Therefore proceed.

But yet hear this: mistake me not; no life,

I prize it not a straw, but for mine honour,

Which I would free, if I shall be condemn'd

Upon surmises, all proofs sleeping else

But what your jealousies awake, I tell you

'Tis rigor and not law. Your honours all,

I do refer me to the oracle:

Apollo be my judge!

OBJECTIVE

What your character wants from the other character(s)

Examples:

I want you to respect me

I want you to love me

I want you to leave

I want you to listen to me

ACTION VERBS

Use as TACTICS to get WHAT YOU WANT (your objective)

Ask yourself, is it an *action* and would it fit in the phrase below:

I _____ you.

EXAMPLES:

accuse	demand	reject	warn
adore	dismiss	ridicule	welcome
amuse	flatter	scold	worship
annoy	idolize	soothe	challenge
beg	ignore	startle	defend
belittle	instruct	taunt	humor
charm	lure	teach	entertain
coax	mock	tease	bribe
comfort	pester	tempt	flirt
confront	plead	threaten	fight