

Today's Activities

October 23, 2006

Read and Respond to "The Actor's Art" and "The Method"

from *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Amateur Theatricals* by John Kenrick [20 points possible]

Objective: become familiar with traditional approaches to acting versus the Method. Compare and contrast this reading with the readings from *A Practical Handbook for the Actor* by Bruder et al.

Method: Read the handout. Consider how you would use this information and advice. Answer the questions below. You may quote the text.

Vocabulary:

Amateur – a person who engages in a study, sport, or other activity [such as theater] for pleasure rather than for financial benefit or professional reasons.

B.C.E. – Before the Common Era, date notation equivalent to BC.

Greek chorus - a company of actors who comment (by speaking or singing in unison) on the action in a classical Greek play.

Audibility - capable of being heard; loud enough to be heard; actually heard.

Renaissance - the period of European history at the close of the Middle Ages and the rise of the modern world; a cultural rebirth from the 14th through the middle of the 17th centuries.

What are *thespians*? (1 pt) _____

When did theater move indoors? (1 pt) _____

What had to be developed when dramatic productions moved into enclosed theaters? (1 pt) _____

What does it mean to "build a performance from the outside in"? (2 pts) _____

Who developed Method acting? (1 pt) _____

What does it mean to "build a performance from the inside out"? (2 pts) _____

Briefly describe each the six principals of the Method, listed below. When applicable, describe what we have already done in class that gave you experience working with a given principal. 2 points each.

Physical and Mental Relaxation _____

Character Biographies _____

Text Analysis _____

Substitution _____

Emotional and sensory recall _____

Showing vs. coaching _____
