

Today's Activities

October 30, 2006

Read and Respond to "Physical Basics"

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

Objective: Become more familiar with the physicality of acting. Compare this reading with activities completed in class. NOTE: this text is written with the director in mind, but is especially useful to actors.

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

Vocabulary:

Pacing – to set or regulate the rate of speed for.

Gesture – a movement or position of the hand, arm, body, head, or face that is expressive of an idea, opinion, emotion, etc.

Diction – the accent, inflection, intonation, and speech-sound quality manifested by an individual speaker, usually judged in terms of prevailing standards of acceptability; enunciation.

Cockney – a native or inhabitant of the East End district of London, England.

Depict – to represent in a picture or sculpture; to represent in words; describe.

Temper – to soften or tone down.

Synthetic – not real or genuine; artificial.

Score – the music played as background to or part of a movie, play, or television presentation.

Cue – anything said or done, on or off stage, that is followed by a specific line or action: *An off-stage door slam was his cue to enter.*

Staging – the act, process, or manner of presenting a play on the stage.

Prop – short for *property*, a usually movable item, other than costumes or scenery, used on the set of a theater production, motion picture, etc.; any object handled or used by an actor in a performance.

For each of the concepts below, think of at least one exercise or game we have done in class which introduced or practiced it. Describe it and how it addressed the concept. (2 points each)

Pacing _____

Gestures _____

Diction _____

Listening and Reacting _____

What advice does the book give regarding the following? (3 points each)

Pacing is too slow _____

Actors want to memorize their script at the rehearsals _____

Actors may not be loud or clear enough _____

A rehearsal is lifeless _____

