



The Director's Cut

June 14, 2023

Issue 002

"Acting is not about being someone different. It's finding the similarity in what is apparently different, then finding myself in there." - Meryl Streep



Anyone Can Act class - June 10, 2023 - Ed Casas and Monica Harker on stage

IT'S ABOUT CHARACTER

Some of the most fun you can have as an actor is the challenge of building a character.

Building a good, three-dimensional, living breathing human being can be difficult to the novice actor, yet there are some hacks that can give one a leg up in the creation process.

We asked our participants in the Anyone Can Act program to utilize 3"x5" note cards to brainstorm elements of their character or characters, stating first the character's name. This is such a simple first step, adopting the name of your character and dropping any use of the word "them" or "they" in exchange for a confirming "I" or "me".

The character sheet could include things as simple character choices such as "Are they an introvert or an extrovert?" or what kind of animal is this character most like, or even something as lighthearted as "What's



Anyone Can Act class - June 10, 2023

their favorite meal?" all in the hopes of getting into the head of this being that will be possessing them for a time. Mr. Casas, instructor and Director of ActBroward discussed the use of character archetypes found throughout fiction and using these archetypes as a hack for a quick character choice. Examples of character archetypes from sitcoms included "The Flirt", "The Smart One", "The Weird One". Check-out Mr. Casas' diagrams on actbroward.org of the various ways at thinking of character tropes from Commedia dell'arte up to modern day super-hero movies.

ROLLER-COASTER MONOLOGUES

Our students have been working hard on auditioning for our program Let Your Monologue Be Your Resistance, funded in part by the Broward Cultural Division.

Mr. Casas believes that monologues are the core to any actor's growth, and encourages his troupe members to have several monologues ready to go if asked by any future directors.

With the monologue showcase, actors are asked to choose a monologue with a strong socially conscious meaning or a monologue with a character who has something significant to lose or gain.

As monologues by nature are short (1 to 2 min in length for this production) it is of supreme importance that the actor performing understands that the monologue is still entertainment, and an entertaining story takes the audience on a journey of highs and lows, the cliché of a "roller-coaster of emotions" comes to mind.

It is the actor's responsibility to offer contrasting moments throughout their brief performance.



Anyone Can Act - June 10, 2023 - Karl Zoisl

It is said you can not play emotion, for the audience will not buy it, and you will be what actors fear... unbelievable.

You can not play emotions, but you can play action. Choose action verbs for units of dialogue, break those units down in to beats and choose an action verb for the beats. As you go through each dependent clause, each word, you may be surprised by the number of behavioral changes you can exhibit in a short period of time... and that's entertainment.

FAST FORWARD

Anyone Can Act Classes

- Sat **June 17** 11am-1:30pm Quiz & About the Business
- Mon **June 19** 7pm-9pm Extra Credit Class
- Sat **June 24** 11am-1:30pm Audition
- Sat **July 1** 11am-1:30pm Rehearsal
- Sat **July 8** 11am-1:30pm Performance of let Your monologue Be Your Resistance and Americana, Scenes from the American Stage



Anyone Can Act class - June 10, 2023

ROLE CALL!

***June 17** - 2:30pm-5pm Multi-Production Casting Call with several local directors. Our collaborating film directors ensure that your performance will be seen in film festivals throughout the world.

***June 24** - In-Class Auditions for Let Your Monologue Be Your Resistance & Americana: Scenes from the American Stage. Selected students will perform on our July 8th showcase, and be compensated for their performance.



SPOTLIGHT

Kristi Ballew is one of the founding board members of ActBroward. Ms. Ballew has a history working with nonprofits having cut her teeth at the now defunct Graves' Museum of Archaeology and Natural History.

In addition to Kristi's clerical work with the organization, she is also a head-shot photographer, website designer, and a graphic artist. Thanks Kristi for all that you do!

