

ACTING – SOME CORE BELIEFS

BELIEVABILITY – In order to be affective in your portrayal of the character the audience must be able to accept the actor as the character. Moments must be honest and genuine not forced or manipulated. Find a way to connect your experiences to the characters – use the “as if” or find a similar event in your life to relate to the character’s actions.

RISK – actors must be willing to step outside themselves and challenge themselves emotionally, physically and intellectually. Likewise, we need to dismiss ourselves from our “hang-ups” – how we stand, talk, walk, think or breathe. Work to push beyond yourself.

IMMERSING IN THE WORLD OF THE PLAY – It is our job as actors to fully realize our characters. We need to work to understand, look at and walk in our characters’ body and mind. We need to think like they think, move like they move and look at the world around them from their point of view. Do your homework to know this character and understand their given circumstances.

LISTEN! – A key to being successful! When on stage we must listen. Listen to your fellow actors and respond **IN THE MOMENT**. Do not rely on the way it went in rehearsal or last show. Let your emotions and reactions change as you receive them in this moment. Work with your co-actors to communicate and not compete onstage. Now. Immediate. Honest. Reaction.

ENSEMBLE – a company of actors and theatre artists must create and provide a space and working environment where vulnerability and risk are cultivated and supported. If a company cannot generate such a space, the work will not be as rich as it could be.

“Everyday People in Extraordinary Circumstances” – Plays and stories need to be about people we relate to. We want to see them in a situation of extraordinary circumstances - situations of strife or life changing moments, not dull ordinary choices.

PLAY THE BIGGEST CHOICE (honestly) – When performing it is important that the actor chooses something their character wants and works to get - every performance and every rehearsal. So, when you consistently work for what your character wants, you make every choice as meaningful and important as possible.

FIND NEW DISCOVERIES – People are not static, and characters are not either. Work to find new nuances or sides of the character and his or her intentions and actions. Make it a goal to try something new every rehearsal/performance.

THE MOMENT BEFORE – Do not just walk onstage and start your scene. Where is your character coming from? What do they want when they enter? Have a purpose.