



ACTING IS REACTING: WORKING WITH A DIALOGUE PARTNER

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What is the motivation?

- ▶ *Female: “Oh, Marvin, I really really LOVE you!”*
- ▶ *Now, what is her motivation here?*
 - ▶ *She really adores him (really...)*
 - ▶ *She needs money to pay her rent*
 - ▶ *She wants him to propose and buy her a diamond*
 - ▶ *She loves every man she goes out with (she’s nuts...)*
 - ▶ *She lies about everything!*

*This is a “corny” but ok example of motivation in a scene or script.
Why is a character saying the line? How can you figure this out?*



Psychology is the answer!

- ▶ **THE WHY** in human interactions is based on human *psychology*, individual *reasons* people have (secretly or openly) for doing or saying something.
- ▶ Acting allows us to experience many things in life without experiencing the pain or outcomes. That's acting's greatest gift. *We can live vicariously through others.*
- ▶ That's why learning about motivation and reacting to others' motivations as an actor will help you in life!
- ▶ Script analysis and scene practice can help an actor develop life skills, understanding others better, reacting with greater awareness, living more successfully. After all, our life is a series of **SCRIPTS**.



Each character's back story

- ▶ **The back story means “reasons”**
 - ▶ Quickly speed read a script to see what people say
 - ▶ What *jumps out at you* as a key motivational line?
 - ▶ What makes you say, “*ah ha,*” (*a reason*)
 - ▶ Read BETWEEN THE LINES in a script
 - ▶ Every accomplished actor can do this. Can you?
 - ▶ These are NOT merely WORDS ON A PAGE
 - ▶ The words are CLUES to motivation, causes
 - ▶ Take the words OFF THE PAGE and make them **real**
 - ▶ **If we don't BELIEVE YOU ...You are a lousy actor!**
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The two most important voice actor skills

1. **Mastery “THE COLD READ”** (a good aloud reader!)
2. **Quickly figuring out ‘the back story’ in your part**
 - ▶ Acting with partners, *LISTEN LISTEN LISTEN*
 - ▶ *YOU ARE REACTING*
 - ▶ Listen to people in real life. They listen, absorb, think, then speak (sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly) and those who ***don’t listen*** . . . Well.....
 - ▶ THINK while listening...ask, how should I REACT to what the person just said? In life, this is an unconscious reaction.
 - ▶ Note:As actors, we sometimes have to take a director’s command or for whatever reason, follow someone’s direction as to motivation.



Words to the Wise

- ▶ “You think—you don’t just ‘speak.’ The lines [in the script] come off the *thoughts* the characters have.” **Jeremy Irons** ... *American Film Magazine*
 - ▶ “A lot of what acting is ***is paying attention!***” **Robert Redford** ... Interview *Sundance Film Festival*
 - ▶ You must have a solid understanding of your character's *relationship* to others in the script to make rational and realistic choices.
 - ▶ The real story is not the words on the page but *what transpires between lines*. **It sometimes has little to do with the words being said!**
 - ▶ **John Wayne: “I’m not an actor! I’m a REACTOR!”**
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Comedy Nuggets

- ▶ Comedy is made up of three things: **conflict, desperation and the unpredictable**
- ▶ Breaking down comedy scripts will help you identify classic jokes like "the turnaround," in which a character says something with 100 percent conviction, then turns it around with equal conviction. Try it yourself: "**You're going to Disneyland! (BEAT) Not!**" (timing!)
- ▶ There are also "triplets": The character sets up with two simple and similar lines of dialogue, then on the third line hits the joke with something different and unpredictable.
- ▶ Jump right in after partner says something. No gaps.
- ▶ **Now ON WITH OUR SHOW ... Watch and Listen!**



ONSTAGE PARTICIPANTS

- ▶ Pearl Hewitt
- ▶ Andy Boyns
- ▶ Adrion
- ▶ Trish Causey
- ▶ Dan Wallace
- ▶ Jennifer Dixon
- ▶ Kevin Charles

▶ **THANK YOU EVERYONE!!!!**

