

Creating Character Voices

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James R. Alburger ~ www.voiceacting.com ~ Author: *The Art of Voice Acting*

The basics of voice-acting -

Just doing funny voices won't make you a pro

Every script has a character in it. It's the actor's job to bring life to the character and take the character's words "off-the-page"

The voice-actor's goal is *to create compelling characters in interesting relationships.*

Some simple voice-acting concepts and techniques you can use immediately -

The PVR's – PACING (speed and flow) – VOLUME (loudness) – RANGE (vocal placement)

M.O.V.E. - MOVEMENT ORCHESTRATES VOCAL EXPRESSION (physicalize the moment)

A-B-C's of Voice Acting - AUDIENCE (1 person) - BACK-STORY (specific event to which you are responding) - CHARACTER (who you as the speaker?) - DESIRES (character wants, needs & intentions) - ENERGY (physicalization appropriate for the character's attitude and emotion)

Making choices – commit to the choices you make to keep your character and voice consistent

Creating the character voice -

Characters must be real and believable.

Understand the story and the character's role in it.

Exaggerate a normal attitude or characteristic to make the character interesting.

Explore different placements, attitudes, emotions and textures.

Use accents and dialects only if appropriate to the character.

The voice you create MUST be sustainable and duplicatable.

Finding your voices -

Vertical placement – the *sweep exercise* (low pitch to high pitch). You've got a voice at every pitch.

Horizontal placement – moving your voice to the front or back through muscle tension and physicalization.

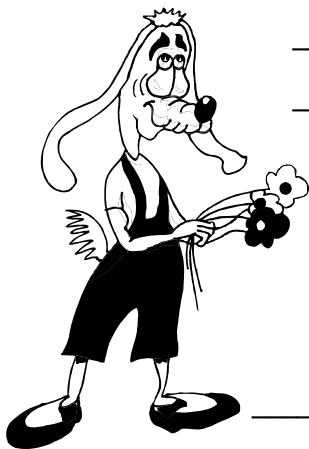
Documenting character & voice placement – name character, appearance, walk, key word, emotion, attitude, dynamics, quirks, mouth work, laugh, etc.

Working with the script -

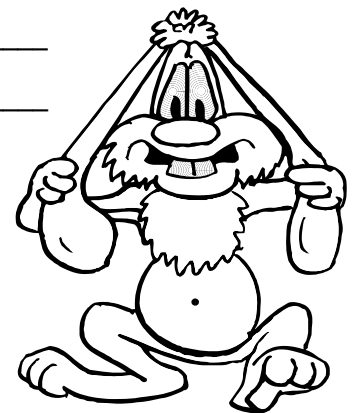
Look for hook lines, key words, and phrases that reveal things about the character.

Figure out what the character wants as a result of speaking the words.

Experiment with different ways to deliver the lines.



_____	Name	_____
_____	Keys	_____
_____	A	_____
_____	B	_____
_____	C	_____
_____	D	_____
_____	E	_____



I know I forgot our anniversary...uh, last week!
If I promise to never forget again . . . do I still have
to sleep in the doghouse?

Whaddya mean, my ears make my butt look big?
Look at this... when I pull my ears down...my tail
disappears!!

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Documenting Your Character Voice

Character source (where did you get the idea?): _____

Character name: _____ Age ____ Sex ____

Key phrase (to quickly return to the voice): _____

Appearance (hair, clothing, etc.): _____

Physicalization (how does your character move in time and space?):

Stance: _____ Walk: _____

Quirks: _____ Laugh: _____

Body: _____ Hands/arms: _____

Mouth Work: _____ Dialect/Accent: _____

Placement (location of voice in your body):

Vertical pitch: _____

____ Abdomen ____ Chest ____ Throat

____ Adenoid ____ Nasal ____ Face

____ Eyes ____ Top of head

Horizontal: _____

____ Front of face/body ____ Centered ____ Back of head/body

Phrasing/Pacing (the musicality of your character's voice):

Attitude (tone of voice): _____

Emotion: _____

Pace (fast/slow/varied): _____

Volume (loud/soft/varied): _____

Associated color, sound, or taste: _____

If your character was real, who or what might it be like? _____

Other notes:

For information on *The Art of Voice Acting* book, workshops, free e-mail newsletter,
and voice-over resources, visit www.voiceacting.com