

## AWN Workshop

All the things that you must do before day one of rehearsals.

- 1 **Read the play**
- 2 **Write your first impressions of the play** – at least 3 sentences.
- 3 **Write your first impressions of the character(s)** you've been cast as – at least 3 sentences.
- 4 **Make a prompt copy.** Photocopy the play and stick the pages into a ring-binder folder. Make 4 sections for:
  - *Script*
  - *Character research*
  - *Background research (Context)*
  - *Logs/rehearsal diary*
- 5 **Given Circumstances** – re-read the play and note the given circumstances at the start of each scene; including, *time of day, time of year, location – inside/outside (weather), time passage between each scene, what has your character been doing?*
- 6 **Character research. Stanislavsky's lists.** Make 3 separate lists entitled:
  - *Indisputable facts*
  - *What my character says about him/herself*
  - *What every other character says about my character*Note anything in you find in the relevant list – some things might go into two or three lists – if something is repeated – write in the list (how many times is it repeated?) When you have finished the lists – write a summing up of each list – then write a snapshot of your character.
- 7 **What do I need to know about my character?**
  - *what do I need to research?* (factual, historical, political work related information). How can I research this? Do some research
  - *What do I need to make up?* (personal information not given by the writer)
- 8 **Pictures** – find or draw pictures of what you think your character looks like. Write a letter or a diary entry as your character from six months before the play begins.
- 9 **Qualities** – what are the inner and outer qualities of your character?
- 10 **Background world of the play.** Where is the play set? What is the time/year?
  - **Place** – Where is it? What does it look like? Can you find it on the map? Can you visit it? Can you find a picture of it?
  - **Time** – If not set in the present, what can you find about the time? Can you talk to someone who was alive then? Can you visit a museum? Read plays or books from the same period. Visit art gallery. What did people wear? What did they eat? What did they do for fun? What was in the news? Who was important at the time?
  - **Work** – If the play is work related; can you visit/get to do it yourself? If no longer happening – are there museums about it? Is there any other literature (plays and books) with a similar setting.
  - **Living** – if the play is not contemporary – how did the characters in the play live? Types of housing? Type of work? Class? Society? Religion

- 11 **Story.** What is the story of the play? Write it in 50 words. Write it in three sentences. Write it as a film poster.
- 12 **Objectives.** What does your character want? What is:
- Your characters overall objective?
  - Your characters objective for each scene?
- Write these in the script section of your AWN on the page opposite the script at the start of scenes – or if you think the objective has changed. **Write this in pencil.** You will probably want to change your mind in rehearsal.

**Notes:**

Put your first impressions in the log/diary section.

Put anything related to character in the Character section.

Put anything related to background research in the Context or Background section.

Give yourself lots of room and paper. A ring-binder is good because you can find things easily. You don't have to rehearse with the folder in your hand – you can take the relevant scene out of the ring binder.

In the script you will eventually Unit the scenes – write in activity, action, stake etc. You can do this once you know how to do it before the rehearsals – as it will give you something to play straight away.

Always write in the script in pencil because you will want to change things in rehearsal.

**Important** – there is nor right way or wrong way with this. It is all right if you change your mind about your character – all actors do during rehearsal – that is what rehearsal is for to explore. It is important to keep your notes along the way, so you can return to them for further ideas.

Visuals are a good idea – as they give you instant ideas, without having to read whole paragraphs to get the picture.

Approach finding out about a character like a detective. This should be fun. If it isn't – make it fun. If you can't do that – give up! You're probably in the wrong job!