

ACTING FOR THE CAMERA

THEA 4310

FINAL EXAM (WRITTEN)

YOUR IN-CLASS EXERCISES THIS SEMESTER: The Slate, Bite & Smile, Commercial, Spokesperson, PSA, Stage to Camera Exercise, Testimonial, Film-TV Monologue, TV Scene, Corporate Scene, Film Scene, Teleprompter, and Ear Prompter

Review your semester videos in chronological order. Then answer the following questions thoroughly and thoughtfully:

- **What are some of your overall biggest “take-aways” on the craft of film acting this semester? Name at least three.**

The camera catches everything, simplicity goes a long way, never make the safe choice

- **Which exercise(s) were most educational for you? Why?**

The corporate scene was probably the most educational. It was a very specific process and made you focus hard on hitting the correct notes. It not only was helpful for the sake of scenes like this, but pretty much all works because it teaches you to find the meaning of the words and the purpose of the scene as a whole. It was also educational as a characterization exercise because we had to portray two extremely different individuals. It works for actual corporate training and displaying range.

- **Which exercise(s) came easiest to you? Why?**

Surprisingly, I feel the ear and teleprompter exercises came easiest to me. I'm not exactly sure why, I think that maybe I've gotten better at pacing myself, but both of these skills just naturally worked well for me which was unexpected.

- **Which exercise(s) were most challenging? Why?**

The monologues were probably the most challenging, especially the self tapes. Those are what I ended up spending the most amount of time on and

not having another set of eyes was a bit daunting. That being said, it has gotten easier but I do feel like monologues have always been a bit difficult for me.

- **At which exercises(s) did you feel most successful? Why?**

I thought the partner scenes were my most successful work this semester. I liked all of the ones I did and my favorite thing I've done this semester was the American Beauty scene. I think I work well with others and was able to establish some really strong connections with my partners. Working with a partner allows me to fully immerse myself in the scene because my focus becomes less on myself and more on what I'm being fed/what I am feeding them.

- **What is your analysis of where your personal WORK ETHIC is in preparation for a career as a young broadcast professional? This includes:**

- punctuality

- preparation (knowing lines and rehearsing shooting)

- attitude

- meeting assignment deadlines

- promptness in communication

- completing reading assignments

I think I honestly did very well with each of these things. I managed my time well and wanted to make sure I was putting in the required work and more because this is something I genuinely love doing. One of the biggest things I need to work on is my attitude because I have been hypercritical of my work this semester. I'm not one to cut myself much slack and towing the line between constructively criticizing and completely dogging on myself has been a challenge.

- **What are your greatest strength(s) as a camera actor?**

Again, I think I do really well with scenes involving other actors, I like to think I listen and react authentically. I also did oddly well with the more spokesperson-esque exercises we did, I have a certain level of warmth and enthusiasm that really works for those kinds of projects.

- **What are the area(s) on which you need to work as a camera actor?**

I still have some trouble with moving my face too much and I think that having the camera focused directly on me for too long causes some tension in my body that I will have to learn to shake off. I've eased into it for the most part, but I'm still very much a beginner and haven't quite gotten used to being watched so intently.

- **What was your response to Michael Caine's text and video?**

Michael's teachings were invaluable to my progression as a film actor. He has an excellent way of connecting with the audience and presenting his expertise in a humble and helpful manner, which is honestly impressive considering the laundry list of productions he's been a part of over the course of his career. He does what a lot of others won't and gives the actor hope and the sense that this is an achievable goal if you really want it.

- **Was there any particular colleague(s) whose work/growth impressed you in general this semester? For what reason(s)?**

Simon blew me away this semester. He has a great deal of raw talent and an excellent sense of what his strengths are. Even when playing roles outside of his "type," he has a realness to him that is really strong on camera, especially his testimonial work. I was also really impressed with Faith. She radiates on camera and has a STRONG demeanor and voice which just made all of her work stellar. I felt like she nailed it every time and there wasn't a single thing of hers I didn't enjoy.

Was there any particular performance(s) by one or more of your colleagues that stand(s) out to you as memorable? For what reason(s)?

Kailey's stage to camera was fantastic. She has such a way of connecting to the characters she plays, it just takes a bit of a push. Once she's in it, though, she lays it all out there. This exercise was my first real impression of her abilities and she had me stunned with how genuine she was. She also has a knack for simplicity and that coupled with her rawness made for some truly phenomenal work. She has an excellent way of making her scenes feel personal which really showed in this and her film monologue.

- **What clip(s) from the Amazing Performance Presentations (excluding your own) left the strongest impression on you? Why?**

Sam Maggio's clip from Sound of Metal is something I still think about all the time. The range of emotions and confusion that the actor portrays

without hardly speaking at all is so powerful and the helpless look on his face is more heartbreaking than any emotional outburst could have been in that scene.

- **Please feel free to offer any other comments you might have that were not covered by these questions.**

I have never had this much fun and felt so accomplished in any other class I've ever been in. Regardless of how much I've doubted myself this semester, I can look back on my work and feel proud, which is something that has taken a lot to overcome so I am incredibly grateful and feel a lot better about making this a real part of my life. This has been some of the best training I've received and I'm sad to see it end. There is so much talent in this group and I'm grateful for the chance to work alongside these wonderful people under such a truly amazing professor.

ONCE YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR RESPONSES, PLEASE RENAME THIS DOCUMENT AND SEND TO ME BY NO LATER THAN 5:00p ON FRIDAY OF FINALS WEEK.

Name as:

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