



## Important Info for Actors

### Actors

- Only start memorizing lines when the director has spoken to you about his expectations and all blocking/jokes/scoring is written in between the lines.
- Make sure to record everything in pencil so it can be erased if/when it's changed.
- Make sure your handwriting is legible enough for you to easily read while moving around on stage so that you don't have to stop the scene to squint at your notes.
- Know the areas of the stage! If you are unsure that you understand them, please ask questions.
- If you bring in your own costume pieces, they need to stay hung up in the dressing room for the entire run of the show. (So don't bring your favorite pair of jeans or any other clothing item you need in your day to day life.)
- Homework assignments will be given throughout the run of the show to help you develop your character.
- If the director gives you notes to change something about your character, he expects to see it at the next rehearsal without having to give the same note again.
- Always talk to your director BEFORE you miss a rehearsal!
- AFTER you miss a rehearsal, make sure you contact the stage manager and the director (in that order) to catch up on what you missed.
- If another member of the team is affecting the rehearsal process in a negative fashion come to the director immediately and DO NOT speak badly about anyone on the team.

### Actor Rehearsal Duties

- Arrive before the rehearsal time begins (4:00)
- Leave all personal items (food, drink, cell phones, etc) at the tables in the cafe
- Check cleanliness of dressing room items
- Put on any rehearsal costumes needed
- Begin Warm Ups at 4:00
- Quietly await directions from Mr. Hensley
- Be backstage quietly reviewing notes, lines, or blocking
- Stay aware of what is happening onstage
- Be prepared for all entrances
- Be polite to everyone around you. This is YOUR team.
- Immediately come to the edge of the stage for notes at end of rehearsal
- Clean up after yourself on and offstage before leaving

## Understudies

An understudy is a person who learns another's role in order to be able to act as a replacement at short notice. You have to keep up with what your **primary** (the character you are understudy to) is doing. This means you'll have to:

- Watch and record the blocking your primary does during rehearsals. It doesn't have to be exact, just enough so that if you are filling in for them in a rehearsal you will know generally when and where that character is supposed to be standing without having to stop the scene to figure it out.
- Ask questions of your primary, the director, or the stage manager if you are unclear about anything that has to do with the role you are understudy for.
- Fill in for your primary if they are missing a rehearsal. You will be in charge of recording all changes that are made during that rehearsal so that you can convey them to your primary before the next rehearsal, so make sure you keep good records of anything that is changed.
- If you are filling in for a character that you are understudy for, but your own primary role is onstage in the same scene, the stage manager or director will read for the character while you will remain in your primary role.

It's understood that an understudy still has to focus mainly on their own primary role, so don't worry that you will be held to crazy high standards for the role that you're an understudy for. It's more about being able to adequately fill in the gaps until the primary returns and being able to communicate anything they missed to them.

In the event that you DO have to permanently take on the role you are understudy for, it will be necessary for you to jump in feet first, asap. An understudy who takes on their primary's role can seriously make or break the entire show. Basically, the better you know the role you are understudy for, the better off you will be if you have to replace that actor at any point. (Common reasons for permanently taking over a role include: your primary not passing their classes, having to move, or having to quit the production for other reasons.)

Knowing the role well will also help you if you intend to challenge for the role at any point. Remember, challenging isn't about self-gratification or ego, it's about a desire to improve the production. Only issue a challenge if you seriously think your portrayal of the role will make the show better and benefit the group. For more details on understudy challenges, refer to the troupe handbook.

The biggest thing to keep in mind is that while you will need to be a good understudy, it is still most important to focus your best efforts on the role you are currently assigned for.