

**Lets**

**Review**

# Acting

- **What is acting?**
  - at the basic level acting is storytelling
- **How has storytelling evolved?**
  - "storyteller" (the shaman) around the campfires of prehistoric or primitive villages.
  - The stories painted or drawn on the walls of caves, on animal skins and in the oral tradition, were man's first form of education
  - Storytelling is communication, entertainment and healing that far

# **What is the process for creating character?**

- **What is the First Responsibility of an Actor?**
  - He must know each event down to the tiniest detail in proper sequence
- **Acting is a by-production of what?**
  - Listening
- **What are the Given Circumstances?**
  - visible physical characteristics he cannot change; height, weight, race, etc
- **What is the Second Responsibility of an Actor?**
  - To create a Back Story
- **What is the Back Story?**
  - A complete biography of the character from birth up to the time the story takes place.

# **Character Building Outside IN**

- **How do you create character from the outside in ?**

- by exploring the character through improvisation.

- **How does Creating character from the outside in help with creating a believable character?**

- by helping you think of how your character would react to others in new situations.

# Going it Alone

How do you perform  
a monologue?

# **Monologue – a speech an actor gives alone on a stage**

- It is important to learn to present yourself alone on a stage because that is how we present ourselves in life.
  - You will be alone in front of a class to perform a public speech or present a project.
  - You will be alone, presenting yourself, in a college or job interview.
- Monologues are important for an actor because most auditions involve the performance of a monologue of your choice for the director.

# Preparing - Memorization

- You need to memorize your monologue **right away**.
- I know that nobody enjoys memorization, but you can do it. Memorization is important. You need to figure out how you memorize best. If you can learn good memorization techniques they will stay with you throughout your academic career and help you in every subject you take in school.

# Preparing - Memorization

- Everyone memorizes differently. Some learners have to write things to learn them. If that is how you memorize, copy your monologue once or twice and say it out loud as you write. This should help you.
- If you are an auditory learner (a student who learns through hearing), then you should record yourself saying your monologue and listen to it while reading it. Listen to it as you are falling asleep, your brain will keep memorizing as you sleep.
- If you are a kinesthetic learner you will need to find something active to do to memorize. Maybe tapping your foot to a rhythm as you read it out loud. This will connect the words to the movement and help you learn them.
- Some Students are visual learners and have to read things over and over and over.
- Whichever of these describes you... start right away.



# Preparing - Memorization

- You need to memorize your monologue **right away**.
- Most students put off studying until the very last minute. Then... they cram the information into their brain in just enough time to retrieve it for a test or quiz. This technique may have worked for you so far in your educational life... but it is about to become very ineffective.
- What you are doing with this kind of memorization is to cram the information into your short-term memory.
- Your short-term memory works like the recycle bin on a computer – except it automatically empties itself approximately every two days.

# Preparing - Memorization

- If you are studying for a test..this study pattern is fine. You will do well on the test because you still have the information in short term memory. Your grades **today** will not suffer. But.... What about tomorrow?
- If you have put none of the information you have learned into long term memory, what will you do when it comes time to take the CRCT Test, or when you get to high school? How about the SAT, the test you need to do well on in order to get into a good college?

# Preparing - Memorization

- How many of you plan to go to college? How many of you would like to attend UGA, or Georgia Tech? Those schools require high SAT scores. In order to score high on your SAT you need to have retained all of the information you have learned since starting school. Uh oh..... most of you flushed it out of your short term memories without saving it to the 'hard drive' and your long term memory, right?

# Preparing - Memorization

- You can fix the problem if you start today. It isn't even a hard fix, it is just changing your pattern of studying.
- If, on the day you learn something new... you go home and study it **that night**, instead of waiting until the night, or minute before the test.... and then you just spend a couple of minutes a day reading it over. The repetition of the information will put it into your long-term memory and you will own it forever.

# Preparing - Memorization

- It is like shopping... you can buy something really cheap, but you know it is poorly made and isn't going to last, or you can spend just a few more dollars buying something that is well-made and will last a lifetime. The person who bought the item cheap is going to have to replace it (study hard for the SAT, or not succeed in getting into the best college) while the person who spends a few more dollars is set for life. Which consumer do you think is wiser?

# What does this have to do with learning a monologue for drama class?

- Learning your monologue is an important acting exercise. No real acting can happen until your lines have been learned.
- In addition, students who have put their monologue into long term memory do not forget and get tongue-tied from stage fright. Their brain goes on auto-pilot and they can perform the monologue even if they are nervous.
- Most importantly, however, I want each of you to learn how to memorize – that is a skill that will help you for the rest of your career in school. I want you to be good ‘consumers’ of education and decide today that you are not going to save a few minutes and sacrifice having the information you need for life.

**Go Home and  
Learn Your  
Monologue  
TONIGHT!**

# How do I perform a monologue?

- Your monologue is a story about something that happened in the life of a fictional character – the narrator of the monologue.
- The other characters mentioned in the monologue do not exist except within the mind of the actor.
- It is your job to create a character who experienced the situation in the monologue and has a pressing need to tell this particular story to someone. You also need to decide who they are telling the story to. That person may not exist within your performance, but they should exist within your imagination.



# How do I perform a monologue?

- Remember, we learned that acting is just storytelling. Your character is telling a story about a situation from his/her life.
- One of the best ways to tackle this project is to figure out the structure of the monologue. It is a key tool in **learning the story** which is the first step in the process of acting. If you learn the story by breaking it into logical parts, filling in the exact words that the character uses will be easier.

# Maintaining the Integrity

- Yes, you **must** use the exact words. Those are the words of the **playwright**. (the Playwright is the person who sat down and wrote your monologue, then had the monologue published in an anthology (collection) of monologues)
- As an actor it is your job to keep the integrity of the playwright's work and not deviate from the words he used when writing your monologue. In fact, it is a legal matter of copyright infringement for you to alter the playwrights words in performance.

# What are the three ingredients, that when mixed properly create a Drama?

- Plot
- Theme
- Characters



# The 5 part structure of Plot

- If you answer the question; what happens in the story? You will get a summary of the plot.
- Plot is divided into 5 parts as follows:
- **PART 1: Exposition**
  - A play usually begins with the exposition which presents characters and setting and introduces the basic situation in which the characters are involved. A narrative device, often used at the beginning of a work, that provides necessary background information about the characters and their circumstances. It explains what has gone on before, the relationships between characters, the development of a theme, and the introduction of a conflict.

# **The 5 part structure of Plot**

- **PART 2: Inciting Incident**

- The inciting incident is the initial action or conflict that sets off a series of conflicts or events.

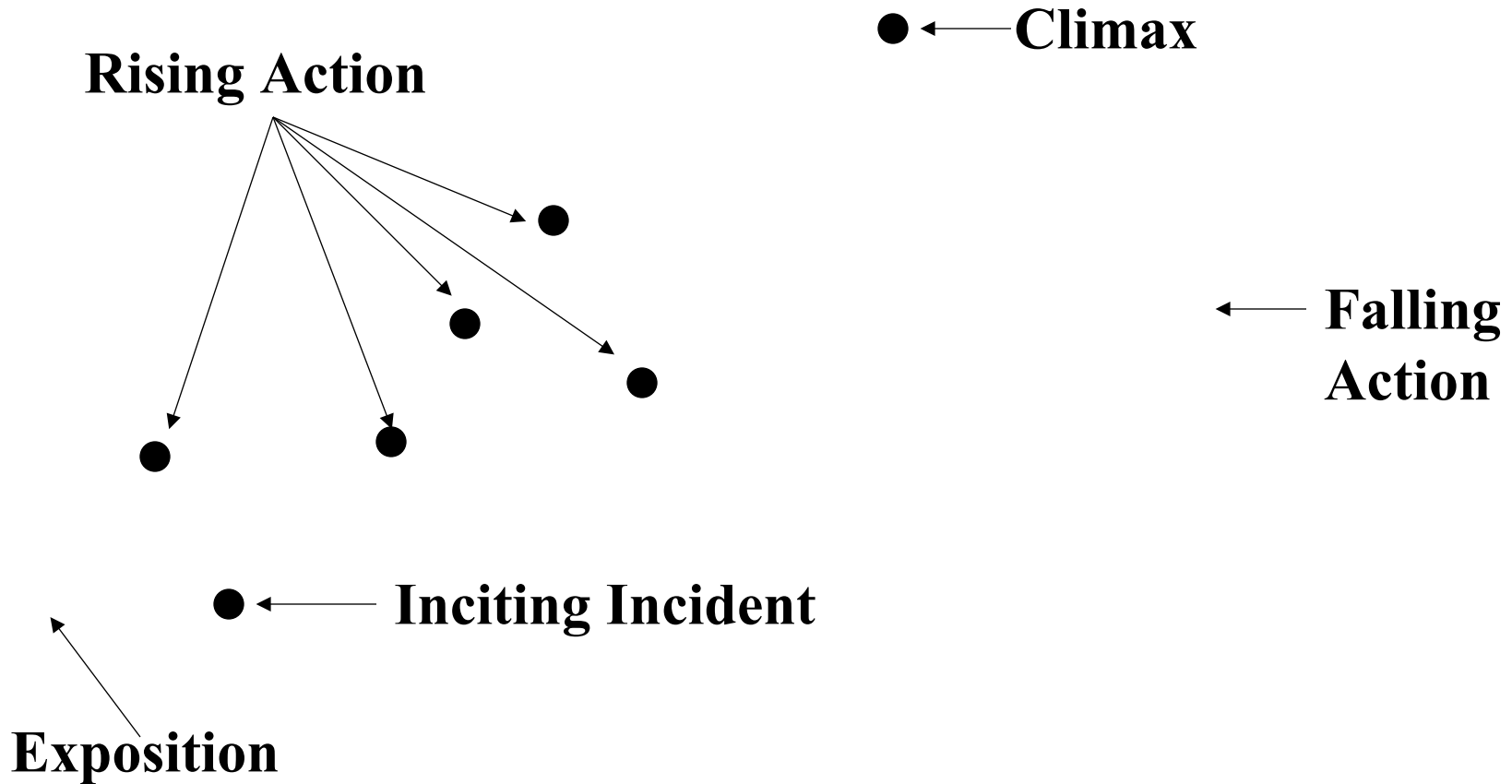
- **Part 3: Rising Action**

- During the rising action the action builds in intensity. It is during this portion of the drama that complications develop, conflicts emerge, suspense build, and crises occur.

# **The 5 part structure of Plot**

- **PART 4: Climax**
  - The rising action ends in a climax that is the point at which the plays tension peaks.
- **Part 5: Falling Action**
  - Falling action is the action that occurs between the climax and the final curtain. During this portion the intensity of the story subsides.

# Freytag's Pyramid – graphs the dramatic structure of the plot



# The Dramatic Structure of the Plot

:

Exposition

Inciting Incident

Rising Action

Climax

Falling Action

+

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Plot



# How does this relate to my monologue, my monologue isn't a whole play?

- Your monologue is not a whole play, but it is a story. **All stories**, even short ones, have dramatic structure – or PLOT.
- Even when you are talking to your friends... you use exposition to fill them in on what happened before, you tell the big conflict, then you talk about what happened after that.... you share the turning point and end with how the situation was resolved.
- We all use the Dramatic Structure of PLOT every day.

- If you ask the question, “What’s the play about?” you should expect a different answer: the **theme**.

# Theme

A Theme should always be expressed in one sentence

Let’s consider a story familiar to almost everybody  
“Little Red Riding Hood.”

**What happens in the story?** *a little girl is sent to deliver food to her grandmother. Although the little girl is cautioned not to talk to strangers, she speaks to a wolf, and tells the wolf she is on her way to visit her grandmother. When she arrives at grandma’s the speedy wolf has already eaten granny, and is lying in wait in her bed. The wolf proceeds to have Red for dessert. This is the PLOT.*

**What is the story about ?** *the story is about a little girl who suffers the consequences for not following directions. This is the THEME.*

**The Theme is the moral or meaning of the play.**

# CHARACTER

- Every play has at least one ***Character*** . The characters are carefully constructed to provide contrast and the opportunity for conflict - if the characters were all the same, the play would be extremely boring.
- Most plays have a character who is known as the ***Protagonist***. The protagonist is the hero, the person who the audience identifies with and wants to get whatever it is he/she has set out to achieve.
- If there is a ***Protagonist***, you will find an ***Antagonist*** as well. The Antagonist is the person who through intentional action, or through being in the wrong place at the wrong time, finds him/herself standing the the way of what the Protagonist wants.
- In your monologue your character will talk about an antagonist, that character will not be part of the performance. Your monologue characters feelings about the antagonist will work to create the conflict you need to make your monologue interesting.

# What are the three ingredients of a Drama?

- Plot: answers the question “What happens in the story?”
  - exposition
  - inciting incident
  - rising action
  - climax
  - falling action
- Theme: answers the question “what is the story about?”
  - the theme is the moral or meaning of the story, it can be expressed in one sentence.
- Characters
  - Protagonist – your character in the monologue
  - Antagonist – the person you talk about in the monologue that stood in your way of getting what you wanted.