

Awareness

An actor must be sensual otherwise he or she is nothing but a clever machine doing a series of tricks which can impress but never 'move' an audience - and it is my aim to do just that.

We have to learn to HEAR as well as a composer - SEE as well as a painter or sculptor and SMELL as keenly as most animals do.

Your past

To be an actor of any value you must know how to use your own life and how to become better at remembering, not just vaguely, but clearly with every detail of mood, atmosphere, colour and shape. The ability to give this to your character will bring an indefinable weight that is interesting, tantalising, absolutely your own and the opposite of what we see all the time - ie. stereotyped acting.

The value of improvisation

It is wonderful to discover the excitement of becoming a character so completely that you know with certainty how to react to everything and anything - not just the particular line in the script to which you must reply ! To feel the atmosphere of time and place that is not ours and to be able to convey that to an audience so that they too experience new and unfamiliar sensations. As your character you will have a past and hopes for the future. You will think, day-dream, experience joy and sadness as your person and will find yourself not PERFORMING or ACTING but simply BEING this new person but with the added skills of an actor with the body and voice that do what you want them to do.

You will keep a comprehensive work book of what you are doing which will be invaluable in the future for doing work on your character on your own.

This way of working is enormously creative, making the rehearsal time as exciting and as fulfilling as the performance time

The ultimate for us is to have an audience go home wondering what is now happening to the characters they have just seen, in other words - the character is now a real living person in the audience's memory.

Failure for us is for the audience to go home saying "What a good actor that is".

Question yourself - If you want the latter then you are not searching to be a creative artist but just have the need to be 'A Show Off' and be gratified, rather than GIVE and SHARE - which should be every artist's aim.

Sumner Vau H