



ACTING WITH KEIRA

APPROACHING A MONOLOGUE

3 Top Tips

: DEVELOPING YOUR CRAFT :



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*The key to bringing a scene
to life is in the...*

details

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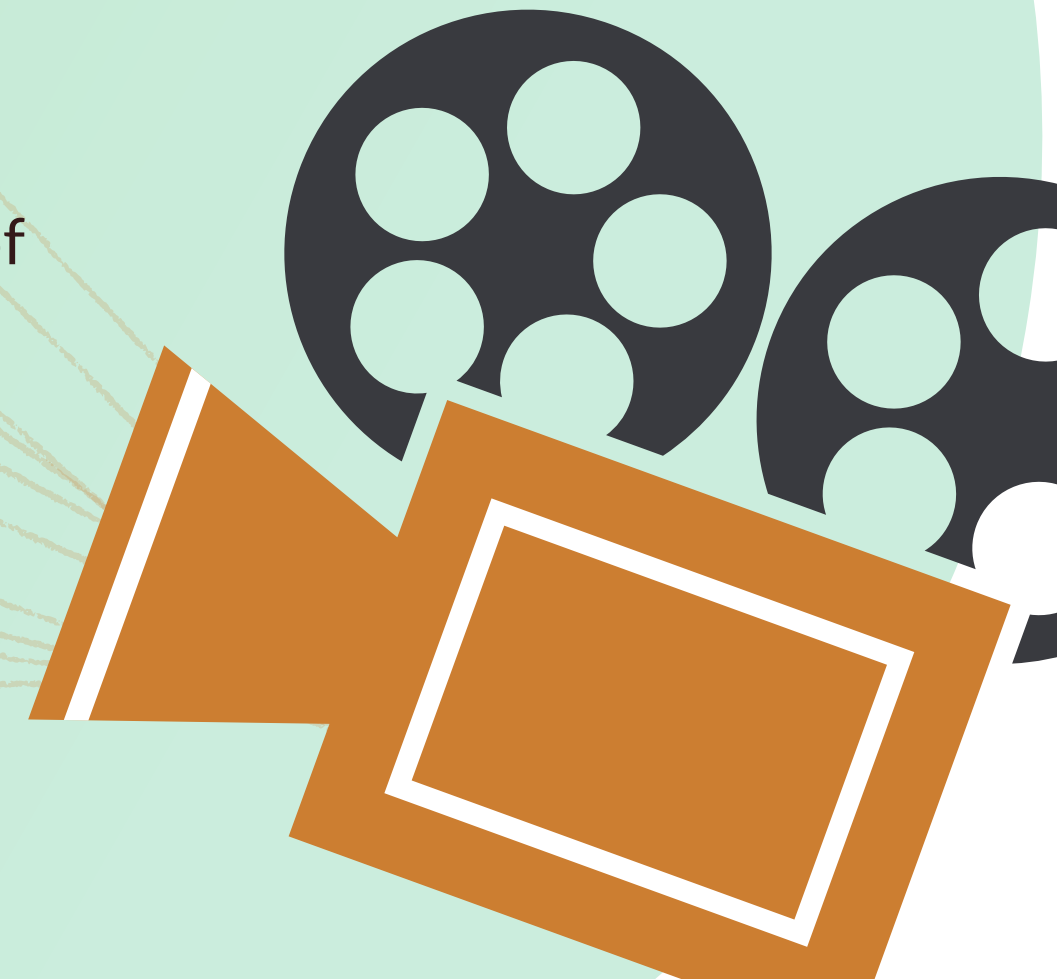
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Break It Down

If someone were to ask you about your favourite scene in a film you could probably list at least 5 different things that you love about it. This all comes down to the DETAIL. We love a good book or a good film because they are well thought through and as an observer we get to enjoy the world.

This is exactly the same for acting. You want to create a vivid and multi-dimensional character that the audience believes. To do this you need to delve in to the finer aspects of the scene so that you can really put yourself in your character's shoes and find all of the intricacies that make them who they are. You want to be able to see the world as your character does.

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Bringing Your Scene to life

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Break It Down

Add In Detail

These are the two key components for this entire process.

Note down and analyse the scene.

Then add in elements of your findings into the scene to bring in the detail.

Doing this will add layers to the scene making it more life-like.

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1 *Know what you are saying:*

I cannot stress the importance of this enough. If there you say something that you do not fully understand it will be impossible to connect with the line. Lines then become awkward and the audience can sense this. So make sure that the first thing you do is understand what you are saying. If there are any words or phrases that are new to you, look them up so you know the meaning.

A great way to test your understanding is to take each line or paragraph and say it in your own words. If you are comfortable doing this then it means that you understand the points your character is trying to make and have connected with the words.

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! *Questions To Ask Yourself*

- *Why am I saying this?*
- *What do I really mean when I say this?*
- *How can I say this in another way?*

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2 *Figure Out Who You Are Talking To*

Our tone of voice changes completely depending on who we are talking to so ask yourself who your character is talking to in the scene. Once you have made yourself aware of this, ask yourself what your character thinks of this person. Do they like them; do they hate them; do they think they are weak; do they think they are powerful and so on. Being aware of how your character sees the people they are talking to will make it easier for you to align with their point of view and play out the scene with more detail.

The more specific you are with this the more it will give you to work with when running your scene.

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! *Questions To Ask Yourself*

- *Who am I talking to?*
- *Where are they in the space?*
- *What do I see when I look at them?*

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3

Pay Attention To Your Surroundings

Our surroundings affect us, and this is the same for your character. Write down some adjectives of how your character would describe the place that they are in. Again this will help you to see things as your character does and it will give you more to respond to. Think about how your characters behaviour changes from being in an environment that they are completely comfortable in to one in which they feel threatened; Are they somewhere they are familiar with or is it a new space to them? Being aware of your character's surroundings will allow you to engage more with the space around and create a more dynamic scene.

As with the other tips, after you have broken down the scene and analysed your characters situation, add in elements of detail that will bring your monologue to life.

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! *Questions To Ask Yourself*

- *Where am I?*
- *How does this space make me feel?*
- *Why am I in this space?*

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Let the ideas flow



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AND AS ALWAYS

Have Fun

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