

## ACTORS DROP OUT AT THE LAST MINUTE – WHAT CAN WE DO?

I received this very legitimate question from a student:

Q: “When working with my actors over the past couple of days, the question arose about how one would proceed if an offer for a feature film audition conflicted with in-class rehearsal, or a paying gig. They wanted to know how we would handle such a last minute moment, and I didn't have a good answer. Also, what if a last minute audition conflicts with in-class rehearsal and I do not have time to find a replacement, how would something like that be handled?”

A: As we noted at the beginning of the course, actors will, on occasion, develop time conflicts with rehearsals. They may even drop out of your scenes. Sometimes this occurs on very short notice. For these reasons we need to be prepared with backup choices, and be nimble about responding. **One strategy I've urged you to consider is employing actors from the School of Dramatic Arts. For obvious reasons their lives and schedules are more predictable and their commitment more reliable. I also strongly recommend that you not put off your out of class rehearsals to the last minute. If you rehearse regularly, even if you need to drop one out of class rehearsal, you are still likely to be prepared for in-class rehearsal.**

However sometimes even your best efforts in this regard may be frustrated, and you will find yourself asking me if you can time-shift your in class rehearsal. It's important that you be aware of the limits on my ability to accommodate your request.

This course has an enrollment of fifteen students. Ideally the enrollment should be limited to twelve. If there were twelve students in the course the 3 hour and 50 minute in-class rehearsal sessions would be divided evenly by four. This would give us a nice amount of time to work with each presenting student's scene. The fact is that there are many more students applying to take this course than twelve seats can accommodate. For that reason I was persuaded to raise the cap to fifteen. Five scenes per night is a tight but acceptable number. Six per night is a strain that occasionally I tolerate. More than six per night is completely unacceptable for reason that will be obvious to you all as soon as you've been through an in-class rehearsal night.

**In summation, I am not only reluctant to grant any postponements, I am severely constrained in my ability to do so. Therefore, please understand that I need you to make every effort – even strenuous efforts – to avoid requesting a postponement of your in-class rehearsal.**

If you are granted a change of nights you must accept the last rehearsal spot on that night, unless another student is willing to switch with you.