

IN-CLASS REHEARSAL

OBJECTIVES:

Participate in Process

Learn the difference between result and exploration

Engage with the concepts

Learn to think like a director

Discover the value of rehearsal

By now you are aware of the importance I place on rehearsal. This may be a new concept to some of you. I hope that by the time this class is done you will understand why I believe rehearsal is of such value, and that you will know how to rehearse, and will WANT to rehearse.

I don't want anyone getting discouraged if your first attempts at rehearsing these scenes draw strong critiques (especially from me). There's more to this directing thing than you may have realized. It takes lots of time and practice before it becomes second nature. That's true of any art, craft or sport — so why should we expect directing to be different?

Perhaps we underestimate the difficulty because the written surface of the scene seems self-evident. That leads us to believe that directing is simply shooting the actors as they say the words. Now you know: it is not!

Don't be afraid that you will "over-rehearse" your actors - you won't. Not if your rehearsal process is one of exploration...there can be no limit to that!

Take chances. Try things out. Don't censor yourselves – and don't censor your actors.

Please find the best actors you are able to under the circumstances. Neither age nor "type" is critical here. I am far more concerned with your rehearsal process than with the "success" of your scenes.

My critiques can take some getting used to. I have no idea of the style of your other professors, so I don't know to what you are accustomed. I give intense and specific critiques rather than general encouragement. That's the way I was taught at

the Yale School of Drama, and it has stood me in good stead. To my mind you are seniors or graduate students and will soon be going out into the profession. The standards, at this point, have to be high, or else SCA is cheating you.

It is possible that, when faced with realistic professional expectations, some of you will decide that you don't want to direct, or possibly don't even want to pursue a film career. If you reach that conclusion, your money will have been well spent and you will have saved yourselves years of pain and disappointment. I hope some of you will be inspired by these high standards to redouble your efforts to "beat the odds" in this business. If so, you will be armed with the knowledge of what it will take.

Whatever the outcome, I hope this class will be useful to you, and not a waste of your time.

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