

OBSERVATION EXERCISE

Do this exercise alone. Make notes on your observations.

The Exercise:

Chose a comfortable observation spot on campus (the Douglas Fairbanks courtyard at SCA is fine) and look at the people around you.

Chose one person to observe. What is this person like? What age? What makes them unique? What was the reason you chose them? Note three qualities that make this person different from all the others around you. Can you pick up on a characteristic gesture? If not, can you imagine one that would match them?

Give this person a name. Try to imagine their life. What do they do for a living? What is their family life like? What is the biggest problem they have to solve today? What are they dreaming about? Where are they going next?

If you were going to make their movie, what type of story would it be? A love story? A drama? A comedy? Why?

Who would you cast to play them in your film?

Imagine a scene with this person as your hero. Imagine the way he/she talks. Make your imagination of the behavior in this scene as detailed as you can. Do not invent random things. Everything you come up with has to have a reason reflected in the real person in front of you.

THE ASSIGNMENT

Be prepared to give the class a brief – five sentence maximum – summary of your observation. You will introduce us to your character, give us your casting, give us a specific detail of behavior or gesture, and describe a revealing moment you observed.

