

Schirle's 17 Solid Suggestions for Superb Mask Performance!

by

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SEE

You can't see if you don't look. The mask always sees something and ...it always shows what it sees.

Spirit of the mask. Honor it, reveal it.

SIZE --of gesture, energy, commitment, and play-- is extra-ordinary, not pedestrian.

START each idea through the mask. The mask gets the idea; the mask leads the movement.


SPEED ...must be appropriate to the rhythm of the mask. Mask-time allows the audience to see.

STILLNESS

There is power and mystery in the stillness of the mask, not constantly in motion.

SUPPORT/SERVE

The body and the level of play must support the mask.

SELECT  Out of 20 gestures, use only the one or two essential to the character.

S E P A R A T E

Head from body, beat from beat, traveling movements from gestures, gestures from lines...all that.

SPECIFY

Be absolutely clear about your object of focus, your actions, your intentions...

STOP

Stops -- focus and reveal the mask.

SIGNAL

to help the audience follow your story. If the genre allows it, report to them often.

SURPRISE

Use changes of direction of energy and rhythm to show "anything can happen!"

SURROUND

The mask is a fragment, a corner of a larger picture to be framed with costume.

SURRENDER

to the mask. Allow yourself to be 'inhabited' by the spirit of the mask.

SUSTAIN

The hardest: to sustain the life of your character through all its actions, reactions, and transitions.

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