

IDIOT'S GUIDE TO SELFISH ACTING

- ❖ Do not listen to your fellow actors (it will only throw you).
- ❖ Hold for all laughs -- if you don't get it, repeat line louder (face front if necessary, or laugh at it yourself).
- ❖ Tension gets results.
- ❖ Emotion is like an orange, you must squeeze it to get the juice.
- ❖ A performance, like concrete, should be molded then set.
- ❖ Your first responsibility as an actor is to find the light.
- ❖ Do not look at your partner -- You may not see what you want.
- ❖ Always be specific, point to what you are talking about.
- ❖ If a line isn't working for you, change it.
- ❖ Cultivate an attitude of hostility. (NO MORE MISTER NICE GUY)
- ❖ Stage Managers are not actors -- Ignore them.
- ❖ Never be afraid to ad-lib to get attention.
- ❖ Mistakes are never your fault.
- ❖ Always find something to complain about, no matter how small or insignificant.
- ❖ Never arrive on time.
- ❖ Never carry make-up; someone will always have what you need.
- ❖ Help Directors keep alert by not signing in and leaving rehearsal early.
- ❖ Never help the newbies (why should they steal your business?).
- ❖ Help your fellow actors by giving notes whenever you feel it's necessary. (If they ignore you, report them to the Stage Manager.)
- ❖ Whenever possible, critique the other actors immediately before they go on -- it will be fresher that way.
- ❖ Speak your lines as if the audience had difficulty understanding the language.
- ❖ Keep other performers on their toes by making fun of their performance.
- ❖ Play the reality -- be aware of the audience.
- ❖ The key advantage is surprise -- don't let actors know what you're going to do.
- ❖ The difference between amateur and pro is that the pro does exactly the same thing for money.
- ❖ Create your character -- find your own costume.
- ❖ Never change anything that's working, no matter how wrong or phony it may seem.
- ❖ When in doubt about an ad-lib, go "Whoo!"
- ❖ Even if a piece of schtick doesn't work, keep using it.