



**Comm Skills Virtual Learning**

# **Competitive Drama I-IV**

## **Lesson**

**May 11, 2020**



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**Objective/Learning Target:**

*Script Analysis*

Define “given circumstances”

Understand and apply objectives obstacles, tactics, stakes,

# Bell Ringer/Let's Get Started

As an actor, why is script analysis important?

What is necessary information for an actor to get from a script?

# CONSTANTIN STANISLAVSKI

- Born in 1863 in Moscow
- Actor/Director
- Founded the Moscow Art Theatre because he thought the acting at the time was **artificial**
  - He wanted more realistic, natural approach to acting
  - So he created “Method” acting: The MOST influential acting movements in America
  - Actors must also consider “what’s going on” or **given circumstances**



# METHOD ACTING

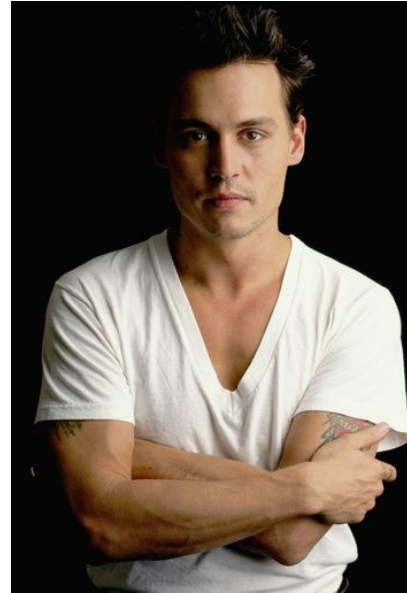
An actor must be “in the moment.”

He or she might achieve this by:

- Relaxation or Concentration
- Emotional memory,/recall,  
sense memory
- Detailed script analysis

Consider **the “MAGIC IF”**

What would I do if I were truly  
in this situation?



With any part you  
play, there is a certain  
amount of **YOURSELF**  
in it. There has to be,  
otherwise it's just  
not acting.

**IT'S LYING.**

- Johnny Depp -

# TOP 10 METHOD ACTORS



# STANISLAVSKI METHOD

- He originated four elements of focus:

**OBJECTIVE**      A character want, need, or goal

**OBSTACLE**      What gets in the way of the objective and causes conflict

**STAKES**      Why the person wants what he or she does, what motivates them, what they will gain or lose if they don't get what they want

**TACTICS**      What things characters do to get what they want, what strategies they use

# Practice

*Imagine you want to go to the movies and you go to your mom, dad, or whomever you live with and ask “Can I go to the movies?” They say no. I’m sure all of you say in response “That’s a great parenting choice. I’ll be in my room studying.”*

1. If you were a character in a play, what would have been your objective?
2. What’s the obstacle?
3. What tactics would you use?

What is at stake? Imagine, instead of this just being any movie, it’s been the movie you’ve been waiting for for a year. ALL your friends will be there. You’ve reserved seats and all the free popcorn your little heart desires. Will this change how you try to get your parents to let you go to the movie? What tactics would you use?

\*These are the stakes that affected your behavior. It made you work harder to get your objective and overcome their obstacle.

THAT’S HUMAN BEHAVIOR.



# Additional Resources: play Ninja with your family!

1. Sit in a circle. Make sure there's room around the outside of the circle.
2. One person sits in the center of the circle and is blindfolded
3. Place 4 objects on 4 sides of the person in the center.
4. One person part of the circle (a Ninja) is allowed to stand up and move around the outside of the circle. Your objective is to walk around the circle, enter back through your spot, pick up one of the 4 items, and then sit back down in their spot.
5. While you're doing this, the blindfolded person in the center is listening. They have 3 different chances to point at the Ninja. If they successfully point to the Ninja, then the person moving has to take the spot of the person in the center.
6. Identify the objective, the obstacle, and possible tactics.
7. How do different objects "raise the stakes"? What tactics would you use for a piece of candy? How would a \$100 bill in the circle change your tactics?