

Creating a Character: Character Walk

by Maria McConville

5 EASY STEPS!

STEP 1

Direct your students to walk around the rehearsal space. This is an independent walk, yet, all of the students are walking at the same time. They should walk with purpose and avoid bumping into each other, touching each other, laughing... This is a task.



STEP 2

Invite the students to move through the space as if it were very hot. Ask them to express in their bodies how this makes them feel. Do they move fast or slow? Do they stand up straight or hunch? Questions should encourage the students to communicate through movement.

Other ideas are moving as if it were a blizzard, a perfect spring day, as if they were very happy, if they were very old... Have fun with the ideas and offer movement-provoking questions. If you are working on a specific play, use character traits or themes from your play.

STEP 3

Have the students stand in a circle. Talk about which physical movements remind them types of characters they know or people they see in their community. What was their favorite walk or character they created?

STEP 4

Invite the students to walk around the rehearsal space again. This time, they are to think of the character they are working on in your class or in the play you are rehearsing. How fast or slow does this character move? What part of their body do they lead with? How old are they and how does that inform how they move?

STEP 5

Invite all of the characters to stand in a circle. Now have each character/actor say one of their favorite lines from their scene or from the play while remaining in character.

Maria McConville is a native New Yorker who has lived in every borough...yes, even Staten Island. She started out at LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts and received her BA in Performance from Fordham University at Lincoln Center. Maria has performed all over New York City from Shakespeare in the Park-ing Lot to Theatre Row and across the country with Theatreworks USA. She also a member of AEA, writer, Army wife, proud mother, and an inspired teaching artist.



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