

CHAPTER FOUR

TRAINING

To excel in the craft of acting normally requires substantial training. I subscribe to a deliberate plan of committed professional training for the actor who wants to do exceptional work as well as have a real chance at a career. There are many new actors who refer to themselves as “naturals” and think that they don’t need training and that classes would damage their talent. Yet you would train and educate yourself to be a doctor, lawyer, architect, accountant, yoga teacher, cartoonist, editor or any other type of professional. The better the training, the better you will be. Many don’t truly understand that being an actor is a profession. Don't be one of them. Those with abilities and talent with little or no instruction might get some acting jobs but those with training have a much better chance of having a career.

Training doesn't necessarily mean professional acting classes, though I believe they are the best settings to learn the craft. Many get professional instruction from the major universities known for their acting programs or highly respected regional theatre companies. Then there are actors fortunate enough to get their training on film sets either because they started young, were physically specific for a role, had heavyweight contacts or were incredibly lucky. Bottom line, for the great majority, the craft of acting requires instruction and time to develop. Respect your profession and train.

PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS FOR ACTORS

Comprehensive professional training is your acting education. You won’t get a degree, but then again a degree has never gotten anyone an acting job.

FORMS OF TRAINING

I strongly advocate the traditional approach for developing your craft – an extended, sustained and comprehensive training period in professional workshops. These are the main training workshops for actors:

- **Acting/Scene-Study**
- **Improvisation**
- **Commercial Audition Technique**
- **Cold-reading/ Theatrical Audition Technique**
- **Speech, Accent, Diction and Dialect**
- **Specialty Workshops**
 - Soaps**
 - Sitcom**
 - Comedy**
 - Theatre**
 - Shakespeare**
 - Stand-up Comedy**
 - Voice-over**
 - Character-voices**
 - Hosting**
- **Private Coaching**
 - Training**
 - Audition**
 - Career**

Each has its time, place and value, which I will cover in THE PLAN.