

8 FUNDAMENTALS OF ACTING IN MUSICAL THEATRE



EXERCISE 1A CREATING A WORKBOOK

It's important to listen attentively while getting notes. But, it's also important to write them down quickly so that you can digest the notes later, when you are able to separate yourself from the conversation. Create a workbook to hold notes and the various kinds of homework you'll do for every role. This can be a three-ring binder, a composition book or a special book that you purchase for the purpose. It doesn't matter as long as you use it. Some actors create a separate journal/workbook for every project and production or class. Feel free to journal in your workbook if that's part of your process. But, we suggest that you use the book for at least these tasks:

- Write your character analysis (which we'll cover throughout this book)
- Take notes from rehearsals and class
- Collect important research for your development of a character and understanding of the world of the musical

UNIT 1.3.4 *Safe Space*

You'll put yourself on the line every time you perform in class, in an audition or onstage. Few things in life are more personally exposing than acting. Training as an actor, especially in the musical theatre, requires you to wake up your impulses and enter the role without barriers or emotional protection. You won't be able to do that if you don't feel emotionally and physically safe in the studio. Behavior is everything. Even small practical courtesies can make a big difference. What you do will set the tone for everyone.

Working Safe and Working Smart

20 practical ways to turn your work space into a safe space

1. Show up on time, warmed up and ready to work.
2. Know your music, lines and choreography before being asked.
3. Do your homework and research on the role and bring in ideas.
4. Remove outside distractions. Turn off cell phones.
5. Leave personal problems at home. If you have an argument or even if you fall in love with someone, keep it outside the studio.