

ADD 4M PRODUCTION: DIRECTOR REHEARSAL QUESTIONS

As a director, it can be difficult to guide one's cast through the rehearsal process without treating them as puppets or without losing sight of the characters and character choices. Below are questions to help guide your creative choices, to help guide your actors without dictating to them and to help you stay on track with the core elements of the play. All of the questions use 2nd person, but assumes that "you" is the character (not the actor). Each major question is followed by a list of specific examples.

EVERYDAY REHEARSALS

What does each character want in the scene? Why is it important to them? What are they doing to get it?

- What do you want from the other character(s) in this scene?
- It's good you know what you want for yourself, but what do you want from the other character(s)?
- Why did you say that line? Why did you say that line the way you did?
- Were you telling the truth? What did you really wish you could say?
- What are you trying to accomplish with that line?
- Try saying that line as if you feel ____.
- Say that line as if you are trying to ____.

Does the blocking reflect the character's inner thoughts?

- Why did you move there/turn away/pick up that object?
- What can you do physically that will get you what you want?
- Why do you think I asked you to move there/turn away/pick up that object? What does that tell us about your character, how s/he's feeling, what s/he wants?

How are the characters changed or affected by the actions and words of the other characters?

- How does hearing that make you feel?
- You aren't involved in the conversation right now, but what do you want to say? What do you wish you could do?
- I want you to react when s/he says that.
- Be changed by what s/he just said to you/How does what s/he said change you?
- What are you feeling/thinking right now?
- Use what s/he said as a reason to leave/stand-up/get angry/fight back/retreat.

ONCE A WEEK

More often than not, a theatre company can become lost in the minutiae of the rehearsal process. These questions will keep your group's mind on the big picture:

- What is the most important theme of this play to us? How did our character, blocking, and design choices this week help to explore that theme?
- What does each character want by the end of this play? Is that different than what you had said the last time we asked this question? Why?
- What is your relationship with the other characters? Has your perception of that relationship changed? Why?