

#34 Topical Tip

Line learning tips

Learning lines is an important and often frustrating task that actors have to undertake to put on a good show. If all actors involved in a show are on top of their lines, then this helps the production to go well and leaves the audience with a good impression of what they've just seen. The next edition of NODA TODAY will feature an article on this very topic (courtesy of Georgette Vale, Wymondham Players), but here are a few quick pointers from her article to whet your appetite.

- ★ It is often useful to start learning your lines in earnest after a couple of rehearsals when you know how the director wants you to deliver your lines. By then you will also know your cues and better understand your character.
- ★ Highlighting your lines with a highlighter pen is a good way of making them stand out. Some people prefer to highlight in only one colour and always associate this colour with their lines. It can also be helpful to stick small post-it notes alongside the lines you need to learn.
- ★ If your script is electronic, then try highlighting your lines in **bold font**. Having your script electronically can be very useful, because you can take the script with you on your phone or tablet and learn your lines whenever you have a spare five minutes.
- ★ To prompt yourself to remember your lines, try writing down key words from each scene. Hopefully by thinking of the key word you will remember all of your lines from that scene.
- ★ In a similar vein, visualisation and association are good techniques for remembering. This is when you come up with a mental image which helps you to link two thoughts together. This can be helpful if you are really struggling to learn lines.
- ★ Some people like recording the script in audio version and playing it in the car so that they can learn their lines by listening repeatedly to the script. Although always be careful to concentrate on the road!
- ★ Don't worry if you need a prompt to remember your lines. This happens to everybody and is very normal. Sometimes people can be too conscientious and panic because they require a prompt, but most prompts are merely required due to momentary lapses of concentration.

The full line learning article will feature in the next edition of NODA TODAY, which will be out in early March 2015.

If you need any further help or advice about this, please contact NODA on **01733 374 790**
or email **info@noda.org.uk**

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