

VOLUME

1

MAKE A SCENE

LEVEL 1-2

PRODUCED BY
THE ARTS MINISTRIES BUREAU

THE SALVATION ARMY USA EAST



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First Edition, November 2022

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A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

WHAT IS THIS?

This resource was originally designed to be a guide for those participating in levels 1-2 drama monologues for Star Search. I know first-hand how difficult it can be for officers to secure leaders at a corps level, let alone ones with theatre experience. My goal was to create a resource for young actors to be able to guide themselves through the basic preparation of a monologue without needing much (or any) assistance from an instructor. My hope is that this workbook would also double as a resource for instructors; that it would ease the burden on local leadership, equipping them to direct young actors.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Each lesson is two pages, or double-sided, estimated to take 30-40 mins to complete independently. If you have a single actor interested in working on a monologue, I'd recommend handing them this package and encouraging them to do one lesson per week. There are 5 lessons in total, with a bonus page containing memorization activities.

WHAT DO I NEED?

- o Pencil
- o Printed Workbook
- o Printed Monologue
- o Bible
- o Phone/Camera
(lesson 5 only)

HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER ACTING RESOURCES?

Through the use of applied theatre we can grow great qualities in our youth: independence, perseverance, and self-reflection. Each lesson is anchored in scripture with clear prompts for students to engage in thankfulness and listening prayer based on the theme of the week. Students will learn technical acting skills based in Laban and Stanislavski methods, at the same as growing their faith, digging into scripture and intentional prayer.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kathryn Higgins is the Arts Ministries Director for The Salvation Army Eastern Territory. She is a life-long learner with a keen interest in applied theatre as a means of social change. Growing up in The Salvation Army, Kathryn treasures her memories at TAM Conservatory as a teenager. She claims to have truly found her love for acting while participating in the Canadian National Improv Games. Kathryn attended Sheridan College for Music Theater Performance and worked for several years in the industry garnering credits that include Camp Rock (Disney) and Anne of Green Gables (Charlottetown Festival). In 2013, Kathryn began working for the Greater New York Division as their Dance Ministries Director, before moving up to Territorial Headquarters under the same title. Kathryn's unique experience in dance, drama, and circus arts helped to secure her current position which she has held since 2019.

LEADING A CLASS

1. CHECK IN (5 MINS)

Play a game and get to know how each actor is doing.

Scan the QR code to visit our YouTube Channel for some ideas!



2. SCRIPTURE (1 MIN)

Invite a volunteer to read the scripture at the bottom of the lesson out loud.

3. QUIET INDEPENDENT TIME (15 MINS)

Ask actors to work on their lessons independently – but to stick to the quiet reading/writing/drawing prompts under: **Investigate, Analyze, Reflect** and **Create**.

4. LOUD TIME (15 MINS)

Read out loud the prompts that require movement and speaking under **Create & Do**. As a group, invite actors to do the verbal and physical prompts all together, all speaking at once. Then, show and tell what they've learned.

When giving feedback, ask the class:

“What did we like?”

“What was unclear?”

“Where can they go further?”

5. NOTES & QUESTIONS (5 MINS)

Give actors a few moments to write down their observations from **loud time** and to ask questions.

6. PRAYER & LISTENING (5 MINS)

Read out loud the prompts under **Pray** and **Listen to God**, giving space for everyone to simply sit in His presence.

7. SCRIPTURE (1 MIN)

Invite a volunteer to read out loud the day's scripture theme once again.

Make a Scene
Level 1-2 | Lesson 1 | The Basics

My Name _____ Character Name _____
Monologue Title _____ Author _____
Scripture Reference _____

INVESTIGATE

- Read the monologue in your head
- Read the whole chapter of the scripture reference
- Read the monologue out loud

CREATE

DRAW an abstract image of this monologue. There are no right or wrong answers! Be creative!

ANALYZE

WHO is your character talking to?

WHAT are they doing?

WHERE are they?

WHEN does this take place?

WHY are they speaking?

HOW did they end up in this position?

REFLECT

Questions I have about this monologue are:

DO

Read the monologue out loud as many ways as you can think of:

- Standing
- Sitting
- Walking
- Quickly
- Slowly
- Loud
- Whispering
- Silly
- Serious

Make a Scene
Level 1-2 | Lesson 1 | The Basics

Continued

HELPFUL HINT

Remember to be open to changing your mind about your first impressions of the monologue.

PRAY

Lord, thank you for the gift of theater!

LISTEN TO GOD

ASK - Show me a truth in this monologue that applies to my life.

Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow. Psalm 25:4 NLT

Make a Scene
Level 1-2 | Lesson 2 | Character

My Name _____ Character Name _____

People (real or fictional) who remind me of this character: _____

INVESTIGATE

Clues about your character found in the scripture:

Clues about your character found in the monologue:

Clues about your character based on the time/place they lived:

ANALYZE

How do these clues affect your performance?

REFLECT

Ways I'm similar to my character: _____

Ways I'm different from my character: _____

CREATE

COSTUME: What could your character wear?

How will you get these items?

DO

1. PRACTICE your monologue 8 times, each time selecting one word below to motivate your performance:

Direct	Indirect	Heavy	Light
Quick	Sustained	Bound	Free

2. DECIDE which 2 of those words best fit for your character and infuse it into your speech and movement.

Make a Scene
Level 1-2 | Lesson 2 | Character

Continued

HELPFUL HINT

Remember to keep your movements motivated by real thoughts and feelings!

PRAY

Lord, thank you for giving me a unique personality!

LISTEN TO GOD

ASK - Show me how my own characteristics bring love into the world?
What personal character traits do I need to work on?

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. Romans 5:3-5 NLT

Make a Scene

Level 1-2 | Lesson 3 | Staging

My Name _____ Character Name _____

Performance Space _____

INVESTIGATE

In the space you'll be performing, there are:

- Isles
- Steps
- Entrance/Exit spaces
- Levels
- Access to drama blocks
- _____
- _____

CREATE

DRAW a birds-eye view map of your playing space including imagined objects on the back of your monologue. DOODLE a road map of how you will use as much space as possible. JOT down where in the space other characters are and where other events to have taken place.

ANALYZE

Clues found in the script that suggest movement:

Clues found in the script that suggest stillness:

Clues found in the script about props needed:

Where in the script should you be the highest and lowest?

How will you do that?

REFLECT

What motivates me to physically move when I tell stories in my own life?

DO

1. GET UP and interact with all the imagined space and props you've created for your character.

2. PRACTICE your monologue by following your road map using as much space as you can.

Make a Scene
Level 1-2 | Lesson 3 | Staging

Continued

HELPFUL HINT

Remember it's ok to change your mind and adjust staging as you go. Take notes so you don't forget what you liked the most.

PRAY

Lord, thank you for this space of safety I have.

LISTEN TO GOD

ASK - Show me how to make the most of this gift.

Get up and prepare for action. Jeremiah 1:17 NLT

Make a Scene

Level 1-2 | Lesson 4 | Voice

My Name _____ Character Name _____

INVESTIGATE

Circle all the punctuation in the script. Ex. ! , . : “ italics, bold

What clues does the author give about how your character speaks?

In the performance space, how will everyone in the audience hear every word of your monologue? (Even the people in the back row.)

ANALYZE

What lines in the script could your character say to themselves?

REFLECT

Personally, what motivates me to speak differently to different people at different times? Why? _____

CREATE

DRAW a slash / in your script everywhere you think the character has an emotional change that affects how they speak a line.

DO

1. Practice your monologue trying out at least 3 different adjectives below. Try ones you think won't work at all and see what happens!

Breathy	Supported	Wheezy
Loud	Soft	Wobbly
Croaky	Clear	Confident
Grating	Pleasant	Annunciated
Low	High	Speedy
Modulating	Monotone	Slow

2. Read through your script annunciating every word as CLEARLY AS YOU CAN.

Make a Scene
Level 1-2 | Lesson 4 | Voice

Continued

HELPFUL HINT

Remember to speak loud and clear for all to hear, even when your character is being quiet.

PRAY

Lord, thank you for my voice.

LISTEN TO GOD

ASK - Show me a time when I used my voice for you.
Show me a time when I should have spoken up but didn't.

Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice. Proverbs 31:9 NLT

Make a Scene
Level 1-2 | Lesson 5 | Journey

My Name _____ Character Name _____

INVESTIGATE

What has changed about your character from the beginning of the monologue to the end?

REFLECT

What have I learned about myself through this script/process?

What have I learned about God?

The message of the scripture is:

The message of the monologue is:

ANALYZE

At what point in the monologue did this character shift happen? Why?

How will you portray this clearly?

What do you think happened the moment before this monologue begins?

How can that affect the way it's performed?

CREATE

WRITE a stream of consciousness on the back of your monologue from the perspective of your character. Set a timer for 3 minutes and don't think, just write EVERYTHING your character is thinking during the monologue but doesn't say out loud.

DO

FILM your monologue using what you've learned today to put the finishing touches on your piece. Critique your own work, then do it again.

Make a Scene
Level 1-2 | Lesson 5 | Journey

Continued

HELPFUL HINT

Remember to hold your final moment!

PRAY

Lord, thank you for all you've shown me
in this monologue.

LISTEN TO GOD

ASK - What changes do you want to see in my life after what I've learned here?

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! 2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT

There's no short cut to getting comfortable with a script. It takes time and focus, but, just imagine how it will feel when you stand there in front of an audience and are completely confident in what you're about to do. Let's get there!

DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START?

HERE'S SOME EXERCISES TO HELP YOU MEMORIZE:

Write

Write out your monologue, or at the very least, write out the parts you tend to forget. Always include the sentence before so that your brain creates clear pathways to that tricky spot.

Imagine

Imagine a clear inner monologue in your head that connects the sentence you have memorized to the sentence you get stumped on.

Voice Record

Voice record yourself reading the monologue a little slowly. Listen to it over and over with the goal of being able to speak the lines before the recording does. When you forget a part, go back 10 seconds and try again.

Video

Video yourself performing the monologue and watch what happens to you when you forget a line. Analyze what your character should be thinking at that point which would lead to the line you forget.

Get a Friend

Get a friend to keep an eye on the script as you speak the words to them from memory, inviting them to let you know when you've skipped something.

Copies

Put copies of your monologue everywhere you can: the bathroom mirror, inside your locker, on the microwave.

Cut Up

Cut up your script line by line (maybe get an extra copy to do this) and mix up the order. Then, reassemble it.

Walk

Walk around while you memorize line by line. The physical movement will help to keep you on task.

Sleep

Read that tricky section over 3x in bed, right before you go to sleep.

Make a Scene

Level 1-2 | Memorization

Continued

HELPFUL HINT

Remember, nobody's going to be following along with the script to try to catch you making a mistake. They want you to succeed! So, if you mess up, just keep going as best you can and honor the character's journey.

PRAY

Lord, thank you for the ability to learn and grow with you!

LISTEN TO GOD

ASK - Show me how memorizing scripture can change my life.

And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:6-9 NLT



MONOLOGUE ADJUDICATION RUBRIC | STAR SEARCH 23

NAME | _____ LEVEL | _____ TITLE | _____ DIVISION | _____

	POOR 1-5 points	FAIR 6-10 points	GOOD 11-15 points	Excellent 16-20 points	TALLY /100
CHARACTER /20	No development of character.	Character beginning to develop. More exploration needed of who, where & when they are, why they're speaking and who they're speaking to.	Character mostly grounded in the text. Motivated physicality explored.	Extremely clear, believable, and motivated character choices. Great attention was paid to the details of who & where they are, who they're talking to and why.	
STAGING /20	No notable staging.	Staging was gestural, distracting, unmotivated or hesitant. Rocking/pacing. Full stage space was utilized.	Blocking was mostly motivated and grounded. More than one area of the stage and level was used.	Staging was always motivated and grounded, bringing the piece alive. Space used to its fullest potential. The audience was transported to a new place. Multiple levels used.	
VOICE /20	Inaudible.	Some spoken lines were hard to decipher. More work on diction, projection and motivation is needed.	Most spoken lines were motivated and easy to understand.	All spoken lines were clearly motivated and articulate. Actor commanded the room with their vocal performance.	
JOURNEY /20	Story arch unclear. Message unclear.	Beginning to find the arch of the piece. More rehearsal is needed to explore the character's journeys from beginning to end. Overall message developing.	Discoveries were made throughout the piece. Lines impacted the journey of the performance. Message clear.	A clear 'moment before'. Final moment held until applause. Character was changed by discoveries throughout the piece. Message was clear & impactful.	
PREPARATION /20	Lines/blocking unmemorized.	Lines/blocking somewhat memorized with moments of hesitation. Flow and timing needs improvement.	Lines/blocking mostly memorized with confidence. Actor engaged in the flow and timing of the piece. Well-rehearsed.	Memorized to perfection. Actor understood the flow and timing of the piece which was well-rehearsed and motivated throughout. Details were present.	
TOTAL					





USA Eastern Territory
Commissioners William A. & G. Lorraine Bamford
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