

SIX QUESTIONS

(you should always know the answers to)

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For every moment onstage—whether speaking, singing, or listening—knowing the answers to the following questions will be invaluable to creating a truthful performance:

1. Who are you?

What is your character's origin story? What archetypes do they echo? What assumptions, values, "baggage" do they carry? What is their super-objective in the play?

2. Whom are you talking to?

What is their power dynamic with your character? What power do they hold over others that you don't?

3. What do you want from your partner?

There will usually be a text-specific answer and a more essential, archetypal answer. See "A List of Essential Actions" for 21 possibilities of the latter.

4. How important is your goal?

What are the stakes if you fail? What is the reward if you succeed?

5. What's in the way?

What (or who) is making it difficult to achieve your essential action? What tactics might you employ to overcome those obstacles?

6. How will you know when you've succeeded?

What behavior from your scene partner will let you know you've accomplished your goal?