



Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Cresswind Neighborhood Theatre (CNT) Monthly Newsletter. In these pages we will update you on what is happening with upcoming CNT and CPAC (Cresswind Performing Arts Club) productions which will include auditions and production dates.

We will also let you know about nearby productions outside of Cresswind. There is a wide variety of quality theatre happening all over the north east Georgia area that you should support.

Other items that we will periodically include will be information on acting, directing, technical aspects (set, lighting, costumes etc.) and whatever else we think is fun and interesting about the performing arts.

We have invited special guest columnists to give their perspective on the many aspects of the theatre.

So, get ready and...here we go!!

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS (CNT)

This May CNT will be revisiting a fun production that they produced last year. This year it is called SCENE IT: Part Deux. This is the game where we act out iconic scenes from movies and your table needs to guess the movie, character and actor. We have a LOT more scenes and some that are a wee bit wacky. Everyone had fun last year and we are sure they will again. Save the dates: May 20-22 starting at 7PM. Tickets go on sale May 3rd. Keep an eye on the Daily Update for more information.

OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY

There are many theatres in the northeast area of Georgia that are putting on some terrific productions. As the area starts to open up, we will keep you informed on performances and dates. Here are some companies to keep an eye on:

- GTA (Gainesville Theatre Alliance)
- Winder/Barrow Community Theatre
- School Street Playhouse
- Aurora Theatre
- Holly Theatre
- Players Guild at Sugar Hill

CONTACT US:

Are you on our mailing list? If not, you should be. We will let you know about upcoming auditions, performances and so much more.

How can you get on our mailing list?

Just email us at...

cresswindtheatre@gmail.com

We will take it from there!

ACTING 101



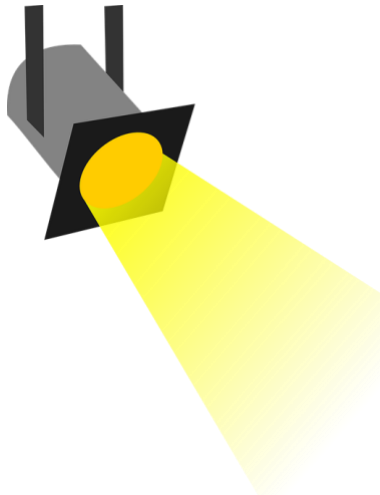
There are many classes and books on acting that one could spend a lifetime reading BUT what are the basics. Well, here are five things to consider. Once you review these you will have a GREAT base and then come audition for one of the CNT shows! Remember that we have a “NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY” policy!

- 1. Where are you? Remember to take a moment before you begin the scene to establish in your imagination exactly where you are. The environment is a crucial stimulus. It takes a brief moment to orient yourself into the place. Without that connection it can sometimes be very hard to see anything other than a room.*
- 2. What is your relationship? You should have a good sense of who you are speaking to and what they mean to you. While this sounds like it should be obvious, many actors don't make a strong enough choice regarding their feelings about this person, which can lead to a weak objective in the piece. As soon as the objective weakens, the moments become less important.*
- 3. What is happening? Consider the event of your scene as the headline of a newspaper. What is the main event? The essence of what is going on. The most important thing occurring at this time. Knowing this keeps you from veering off the through line of action in the scene. It also continues to remind you of what you are here to do. This, of course, will be the most important thing to remember.*
- 4. Where are you coming from? Emotionally and physically. What just happened to you to cause the first moment of your scene? Something should already be going on in you before you begin. The first moment is yours whether you have the first line or not. You must always be coming from something and going to something.*
- 5. What are you doing? Your character is there to do something. This something must be active, it must support your objective, and it must lead to another thing to do after another thing to do. It must push the scene forward. Otherwise, you are playing words and not actions. Emotional actions drive your scene forward.*

There is a lot of thought that goes into acting a scene. The next time you are watching a movie you can watch the performance and see if they are connecting based on these five basics.

ACTORS ARE ALL ABOUT ENTRANCES, BUT WRITERS ARE ALL ABOUT EXITS

—Vincent H O'Neil



SPOTLIGHT ON TECH

Were you ever in the clubhouse ballroom and looked at all the lights pointed at the stage and wonder...what is all that? Well, here is quick explanation on the basic types of lighting used in theatre.

Ellipsoidal — Ellipsoidal Reflector Spotlight (ERS), is a light used to highlight certain subjects or stage pieces with a relatively narrow beam angle. This light is best used for when you want to draw attention to a person by using multiple units. ERS stage lights always have adjustable focus and can have gobos placed in them to project patterns or logos.



PAR — Short for parabolic reflectors, these are lights used as wash fixtures. These lights can cover large parts of the stage to fill in gaps that the spotlights do not cover or to wash the entire stage. These light fixtures typically do not have any sort of zoom or focus option, but come in a variety of lens types to get different beam angles. This is the most common type of stage light fixture you will see, because it is generally the most cost effective while providing the most coverage.

Fresnel — These stage light fixtures are the happy medium between a PAR and an ERS. They have a zoom function but not a focus and usually cast a much “softer” light than ERS light fixtures. This type of light also comes in handy when you cannot hang a fixture in an optimum location and need adjustable optics to help achieve the look you want.



Moving Head — These light fixtures come in a variety of different flavors and designs, such as a spot, wash, beam, and hybrid. Each of these names refers to the beam angle range of the light fixture. Beam is the narrowest, spot is a little wider, wash is the widest, and hybrid could be any combination of those three. These lighting units also have color capability, movement, gobo patterns, and a long list of other functions. As the most versatile stage lighting option, they allow you to really take a show or performance to a whole new level.

There are a few more specialty instruments but these are the most widely used. Thanks to our terrific lighting team at Cresswind led by Mike Boike we can always been seen “in the best light”

10 Questions

In every newsletter we will focus on one member of the Cresswind Neighborhood Theatre by asking 10 questions. This month's focus is on...

WHIT ADAMS



1. How did you get started performing/background?

- At around 37 years of age, I co-founded a chapter of "Kids on the Block", an international program of Japanese Bunraku puppets which performs scripts to help children deal with social issues. I performed for 10 years making these 3 ft tall puppets with arms and legs (and equipment such as wheelchairs, crutches, pom poms and babies) to come alive and teach thousands of children in southcentral Kentucky.
- When my 6-year-old daughter was performing in our town's Community Theater, an acting agent from Nashville came to the theatre members looking for new talent, so I took her to meet the agent. Three days later, the agent called me and asked if I wanted to audition for a country music video. I didn't get that job but I did get my first one a short time later for the TV show "Rescue 911". After filming that reenactment where I was taken hostage by murderers, I was definitely addicted and continued to study and improve my craft for 10-15 years.

2. How many shows/performances have you been involved in? Theatre...19. Movies...2. Television episodes or movies...6. Commercials...62. Industrial Training films...47. Music Videos...7. Print (magazines, brochures, billboard) around 10.

3. Are you currently acting? If so, what are you doing? Working as a Patient Emulator at Northeast Georgia Health System. Performing in scenarios to help train doctors, nurses and others which are usually dramatic and improvisational. Working backstage and as assistant director for shows at Cresswind.

4. What was your favorite role? Theatre...." Speed of Darkness", Public Theatre of Kentucky, and here at Cresswind, "Deadwood Dick".

5. Have you acted in a Cresswind Neighborhood Theatre production? If so, in what show(s)? "Mama Won't Fly" role of Teeta, an old Las Vegas showgirl. "Witness for the Prosecution" ...role of "the other woman". "Deadwood Dick" ...role of alcoholic barmaid. (Geez....have I become type cast??)

10 questions...part 2

6. **Who is your favorite actor?** Leonardo DiCaprio, Cary Grant, Maggie Smith, too many!
7. **Have you ever met anyone famous? If so, who?** Jeff Bridges, Nick Nolte, Oprah Winfrey, Jim Varney, Eddie Arnold, Tracey Lawrence, Billy Ray Cyrus, Oak Ridge Boys, Senator Rand Paul who replaced my lens implant in my eye and looked just like "Doogie Howser", and Mitch McConnell who gave me an award.
8. **What is the most embarrassing thing that ever occurred during a performance?** In a comedy I was furious to arrive home unexpectedly one night only to discover my husband there with a young girl friend. In a rage, I was supposed to (sarcastically) open an old hide-a-bed sofa for my husband's "girlfriend" to sleep in. Unfortunately, one night I couldn't get it open! After I grunted and groaned and stamped my foot to give myself more time, "the girlfriend", watching with amusement and standing there in her pink baby doll pajamas, saved me by sheepishly creeping over and HELPING ME open it! If I remember correctly, my Director was in the audience on the floor laughing.
9. **What do you do when you "go up" (forget) your lines during a scene?** This happened once to me in "Our Town". I was the only person on stage.... the last line I said before I went up was "It's so cold". Then BLANK! There was no choice except to say that line about 3 more times (with different inflections of course!), and then God was kind and delivered me my next line!
10. **At the Pearly Gates, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive?** "Whit, you have worked hard to achieve the titles of 'quirky', 'eccentric', 'crazy'.... I congratulate you|... you have succeeded!"



THEATRE TRIVIA QUESTIONS

1. Which long-running musical was written by South Park creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone?
2. Jean Valjean, Fantine and Javert are characters from which musical?
3. In which musical does overweight teenager Tracy Turnblad break the mold when she auditions to dance on The Corny Collins Show?
4. What is the longest-running musical on Broadway?
5. For which animated musical film did Sir Elton John win an Academy Award for Best Original Song?
6. 'I Could Have Danced All Night', 'The Rain in Spain' and 'Get Me to the Church on Time', are all songs from which musical?

ANSWERS: 1) Book of Mormon; 2) Les Misérables; 3) Hairpray; 4) Phantom of the Opera; 5) Lion King; 6) My Fair Lady



Upcoming events from the world of CPAC

SCENE IT: Part Deux—May 20-22

Liar's Club—June 9-11

Summer Music Spectacular—July 8-11

Variety Show—September 23-25

Storytelling Showcase—October 14-16

Mainstage Theatre Production—November 18-21

Holiday Music Celebration—December 9-12

Subject to change based on community and health guidelines. Check out the Daily Update or go to www.cresswindpa.com for more information.

The world of CPAC includes:

- Cresswind Neighborhood Theatre
 - Mainstage Productions
 - Scene It
 - Tribute to Comedy Legends
- Cresswind Chorus
- Variety Show
- Liar's Club
- Storytelling Showcase
- Neighborhood Bands
- Playscript Readers
- Performing Arts Technical Team

Want to get involved in any of these areas? Feel free to reach out to get more information.

IF you are interested in getting involved with CNT contact us at cresswindtheatre@gmail.com.

If you are interested in any other area you can email performingartscresswind@gmail.com

