

DIGITAL THEATRE+

MASTER CAST Extension Exercises and Questions



EPISODE FIVE: Working with Words – Simon Stephens with Juliet Stevenson

GOAL: Stimulate your imagination with this practical exercise.

SUPPLIES: A script of your choice.

EXERCISE: Using the script as a guide, add information to your character backstory. Answer as many questions as you can about moments the audience does not see. Questions you could use include:

- Where has your character just come from?
- What mood are they in?
- What do they expect when they come into the scene?
- What time of day is it?

JULIET SAYS: Fill your character's imagination with detail so that you really know them, enabling you to walk on stage and just play.

**EXTENSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What sort of relationship does Juliet Stevenson aim to have with any character that she plays?
 2. Describe why she feels she needs to know what it is like to “live with a character” to play them.
 3. What should performers do both during and out of rehearsal?
 4. How can looking at visual art inform an actor’s work?
 5. How does Stevenson describe an actor’s relationship with language?
 6. What does language give an actor access to?
 7. What questions does Stevenson ask before accepting a role?
 8. What is the most important question she asks while preparing to play a role on stage?
 9. How does she describe an actor’s relationship with the text?
 10. Why is creating a backstory valuable for an actor?
 11. What does a good rehearsal room offer? Why is this important?
 12. What does “language is physical” mean?
 13. How can watching how others walk aid character development?
 14. What role does an actor play in connecting the writer and the audience?
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