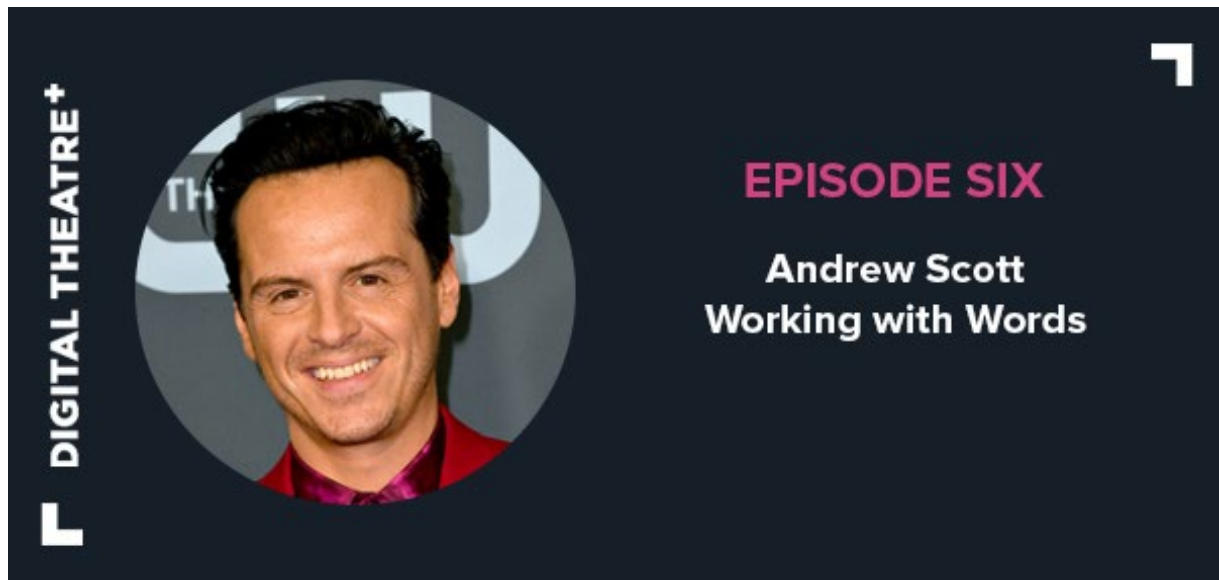


DIGITAL THEATRE+

MASTER CAST Extension Exercises and Questions



EPISODE SIX: Working with Words – Simon Stephens with Andrew Scott

GOAL: Experiment with the pace of your performance using this practical exercise.

SUPPLIES: A speech and a timer.

EXERCISE: Select a speech from a play that you know and love. Learn the speech.

Set a timer for 5 minutes and begin to recite the speech, speaking as slowly (or quickly) as you need to so that you finish the speech as the timer runs out.

Repeat with the timer set for 4 minutes, 3 minutes, 2 minutes, 1 minute, and finally, 30 seconds.



BONUS: Choose two contrasting pieces of music and then recite the speech to compliment the rhythms of the music.

SIMON SAYS: See what you learn about the musicality and energy of the speech at the different speeds.





EXTENSION QUESTIONS:

1. How can the role of an actor be described?
 2. Describe the difference between acting “as disguise” and acting “as revelation”.
 3. Why is the ability to be playful so important?
 4. In a world of constant communication, drama is described as “the lie that tells the truth”. Discuss why.
 5. Why is asking the question “who is this person” so important in the rehearsal and performance process?
 6. Describe the essence of the relationship between the actor and the writer.
 7. What is the value of not knowing the answer in terms of acting?
 8. Through what prism is the role of Hamlet best understood?
 9. Describe the relationship between the play, the performers, and the audience.
 10. How can intuition and experience be as valuable as a formal training in acting?
 11. How can knowing their lines in advance of rehearsals liberate an actor’s exploration of what is possible?
 12. “I wanted my whole life to paint like a child”
What does this mean in terms of performance?
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