

DIGITAL THEATRE+

MASTER CAST Extension Exercises and Questions



EPISODE TWO: [Making Words Work: Simon Stephens with Tanika Gupta and Dennis Kelly](#)

GOAL: Add depth to your characters with this practical exercise.

SUPPLIES: Pen and paper.

EXERCISE: Write down everything you know about your own name. Consider questions like:

- *What does your name mean?*
- *What is the history of your name?*
- *Who named you?*
- *How does your name make you feel?*
- *Do you have any nicknames?*

TANIKA SAYS: A name can illuminate narrative. Once you have completed the exercise with your own name, do it with the names of your characters. Do their narratives change? What have you learned about them that you did not know before?



EXTENSION QUESTIONS:

1. Describe how a writer's working environment can aid their creativity.
 2. Discuss the relationship that a writer has between chaos and order and what each can bring to the creative process.
 3. Illustrate what productivity means to different writers and how the pressure of a deadline can both enhance and impede creativity.
 4. What can immaculate planning and research bring to the creative process? Is it essential?
 5. What does "*Writing is re-writing*" mean?
 6. Describe how language is physical and how this enhances meaning.
 7. What contribution can a pause or silence bring to a scene and why?
 8. In what way do stage directions extend the meaning of the playwright's intentions?
 9. What can the text of a play reveal about society?
 10. How can the shared experience of listening and watching a play help us to understand society?
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