

Character Development Coaching

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CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT is at the core of **WHAT** an **ACTOR DOES** – and **WHO** an **ACTOR IS!** If you're at all serious about **CREATING REAL, DEEP** and **BELIEVABLE CHARACTERS... KEEP READING!**

When you are approaching a new **CHARACTER** for the first time, **BEFORE** you begin learning the lines or doing anything else, take some time to understand him or her (or it!) thoroughly. What a character says only make sense if those words come out of the appropriate **INTENTION & UNDERSTANDING** of that particular character. Try and view the **ANALYSIS** and **DEVELOPMENT** of your **CHARACTER** like a **FUNNEL**. Start broad, end narrow. Let me explain.



Its important to understand that you're going to have a **BIG PICTURE IDEA** of your character first. This is your character's **TYPE! A COP**, a **TEACHER**, a **DRUGY**, a **FRIEND...** Clichés may help you narrow in. Is he/she the **JOCK** or the **GEEK?** Is he/she the girl/guy **NEXT DOOR?** Is your character the **NICE** guy/girl or a **BIKER THUG/BE-ATCH?**



Take a look around the industry **RIGHT NOW**. Can you think of any actors who play this type, the one you're working on, really well? How well do they do it? What are they doing that makes the character work? Can you tell it's them inside that character? How?

Where else have you seen characters similar to you? Begin connecting to the kind of roles that **FIT YOU BEST**. You have to at least have the **RIGHT** funnel to begin this work. If you're pulling on **CHARACTERISTICS** that are far from who you are or can be, this journey will become a bit more difficult. However, once you've established your **BASELINE**, then you can begin to get more **CREATIVE** as you progress in the work.



Something else to consider (without **JUDGING** the character): Note how similar/dissimilar this character is to **YOU**. How much of yourself do you see in him/her? What's different?

From here, begin to flesh out the **BIOGRAPHY** of your character. If information is given in the script, great! Anything that isn't in the script is fair

game to be imagined... as long as it coincides with **WRITERS INTENT** (or the **GIVEN SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES**).

WHERE were you born? **WHO** were your parents? **WHAT** did/do they both do for a living? **HOW** was your childhood? **WHAT** brought you to this exact situation? (Sidebar: When creating a back story, sometimes the information given about you in the script may not be very helpful (it happens). In certain cases you can choose a different story (or tweak the one already given) to help you find the appropriate emotional story.) End of the day — the character must **FIT LIKE A GLOVE!** At least while you're living in that character.

If you read that last paragraph and said, "*Wow, those are big questions!*" you would be right. They are big questions. Only by asking big questions can we create big characters. If you only want to ask small questions, go into modeling. **SEE CHARACTER ANALYSIS SHEET ON THE CBSI WEBSITE.**

PREPARATION FOR YOUR CHARACTER WORK (Answer these questions first thing. Like, now!)

- Be very clear as to what type of character you're needing? Why do you think so?
- Does that character presently exist anywhere in film or on TV? It should.
- Are you going for a character that is actually **YOU** or just an idea of you? Give this some serious thought.
- Do you have your character developed at all? If not, don't give birth just yet. Develop your character first. Then live as the character!
- Work the **CBSI CHARACTER BREAK DOWN SHEET** under **STUDENT RESOURCES** on our website.
- Flesh out your character's **INTERNAL STORY(S)**?
- Dial in the appropriate **MUSIC – MOODS – ATTITUDES – ADJECTIVES – AGENDAS – DISPOSITIONS** – for your character.
- Also spend some time with, **IMAGE – WARDROBE & HAIR**. The simplest of things can click you in deeper to the character you're developing.
- Do your choices compliment or pull focus from your character?



These are some of the things we go into in a **PRIVATE CHARACTER COACHING Session**. It's all about having you wind up with a **REAL PERSON** who is **ALIVE, CONVINCING** and **INTERESTING!**

During your sessions, you'll also be coached on what to **STAY AWAY FROM...** and the different **TRAPS** actors fall into all the time. **PRIVATE COACHING WITH COACH BANKS** will help you with all of this and so much more!

Keep in mind, just because you **LIKE** the character, doesn't mean it'll necessary work for you. Even if it's right in the **BREAKDOWN!** Your characters are **PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS TOOLS**. Work like a **PRO!**

GET COACHING!

Contact us to set up your **PRIVATE CHARACTER COACHING SESSION** with **COACH BANKS!**

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