

Takeaways from Actors' Think Tank, June 9, 2022

Austin Pendleton

Email: not available

Rich Henkels

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"People who hate your work, aren't necessarily wrong." This came up more than an hour into your time with us. A harsh reality of this business that underscores the importance of absorbing feedback, while remaining authentic, in the moment and recognizing there is sooooo much to learn!

Marcie Ryan

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Takeaway: I am happy that I was able to catch the middle of the conversation with Austin, such great and valuable information to absorb. Gained some great books to follow up with and will definitely dive into "A streetcar named desire". But what I will remember most is to act for the sake of acting, for the love of it, not for the career. Act anywhere, stay in class, just keep doing it and learn to come out of your comfort zone no matter how many years that may take. Don't lose faith every actor is working on something, no matter how experienced. When delivering a speech (not a monologue) to another character, believe the other person is in the room with you, find a spot and believe that is where the person is standing and deliver the speech to the person.

Mariel McIntosh

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In your heart and head think that you can play anything. Don't believe your "type" and the roles you've previously portrayed is the extent of what you can do... throw the Casting Director a curveball by letting them see you in a different light. I love that!

Gabi Faye

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The minute you think you know everything, you are in trouble. Never stop learning.

Mike Provenzano

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Thanks again for your time Austin! For me I think your review of monologues is the piece I'm going to be sure to implement first. Your tips about these are speeches to someone else typically so do them as if you are talking to that person. Having an eye-line set just above the people you're doing the monologue for so they can see your facial expressions makes so much sense! Thanks again!

Lindsay Michelle Reed

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I liked what Austin said about the most interesting auditions is when you believe that the other person is in the room.

Shauna Hurley-Hansen

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I feel so lucky to have been in the room today to hear Mr. Pendleton speak. His deep love for the craft and Acting, its rich history and all of its players left a very lasting impression on me and I am truly grateful. Acting, Mr Pendleton said, is inhaling what the other person says and exhaling it back. Sometimes you have to keep inhaling. Think of Acting as talking and listening. Affecting the other person. Having an emotional life and an objective. Truly one of the most meaningful afternoons. Thank you so much.

Jackie Diehl

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Takeaway: Wow! It is incredibly hard to narrow this down into one overall takeaway. I learned so incredibly much from Austin. You can really tell he lives and breathes acting, especially with the way that so many quotes from prominent acting teachers like Uta Hagen are embedded in his head and just roll off of his tongue. I think my biggest takeaway from this meeting is to never stop studying and NEVER stay inside your comfort zone. Although that's an already pretty well known ideal in a general sense, I feel like it embodies everything he said. Study the greats to become great!! Basically, building on your motivations and objectives in each scene and conversation as a character and always knowing your character's world is everything. I really am inspired by Meryl Streep's excitement to just perform in her auditions with no real mind to whether or not she gets the part. I've taken a lot away from this meeting. I went on a huge rant to my boyfriend over the phone immediately after the meeting ended just to share my excitement about my takeaways. He's not an actor and even he felt really inspired. Thank you Austin!

Sandra Bulk

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"When acting, you have to inhale the other person [their words and facial expression] and exhale your lines." I have never heard the art of active listening phrased quite this way before, but it makes so much sense to me.

Craig Woolridge

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"Just keep working"

Paul Blumenthal

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To stand out while performing a monologue to casting they must believe that you are speaking to an imaginary person in the room and that the energy you are giving off is credibly affecting that person.

Tyler McKenzie

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As always, it was a joy to spend an hour with Austin! He encouraged us to just go out and find places to act, no matter what or where that may be. I took that to heart, and now tonight my friends and I are staging a musical in one night in his basement! Stay tuned!

Justine Reiss

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In acting you inhale what the other person says to you and then you exhale what you say in response. In VO there is no one there. (I enjoyed our interchange on this subject Austin !)  
But he enjoyed the hotel and the fabulous meal he had in SF.

And this gem: You have to learn to love acting for its own sake.

Don't think of the career think of the love of acting, don't try to manipulate it.