

Memorizing Lines for the Student Actor

by Maria McConville

5 EASY STEPS!

STEP 1

Read through the scene/monologue. Know what your character wants and determine what tactics they are using to get it.

STEP 2

While reading through the script on your own, read your line out-loud. Then cover it with your hand or a piece of paper. See how much you remember!

STEP 3

Say your lines while you are in the shower or doing the dishes or riding your bike. If you can say them AND multi-task, you are well on your way.

STEP 4

Before or after rehearsal, meet with your scene partner to run lines. First, both of you can be on book. Next, only one partner can be on book at a time. Finally, try it with no script at all!



STEP 5

At rehearsal, practice the scene without the script in your hand. If you forget, the stage manager will be there to catch you! Call for line. But if you've done the work, you'll be comfortable with your lines.

MEMORIZED!

Maria McConville is a native New Yorker who has lived in every borough...yes, even Staten Island. She started out at LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts and received her BA in Performance from Fordham University at Lincoln Center. Maria has performed all over New York City from Shakespeare in the Park-ing Lot to Theatre Row and across the country with Theatreworks USA. She also a member of AEA, writer, Army wife, proud mother, and an inspired teaching artist.



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