

REHEARSAL CHECKLIST

1. Read-Through

- Initial Reading: Gather the cast and read through the scene aloud to understand the basic plot and character interactions.
- Time the scene. Does it need to be cut anywhere to fit the 5 minute limit?
- Contextual Understanding: Discuss the setting, time period, and any relevant cultural or historical context.
- Clarify Pronunciations: Ensure all cast members know how to correctly pronounce all words and names.
- Look at the entire play to get the past and future vision for your character and story arc.
- Know where this scene is IN the play; exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, or denouement? How does that inform your character's actions and emotions?

2. Script Analysis

- Identify Objectives: What does each character want in this scene? How does it relate to the play's overall goals?
- Obstacles and Stakes: What challenges do the characters face in achieving their objectives? What are the consequences of failure?
- Relationship Dynamics: How do the characters relate to each other? What is the history and emotional context of these relationships?
- Key Lines and Moments: Highlight pivotal lines and moments that drive the scene forward.

3. Character Development

- Backstory Work: Each actor should develop a backstory for their character, even if it's not detailed in the script.
- Character Objectives and Motivations: Define what motivates the character in general and in the scene specifically. Connect with your character's motivations. What would you do if you wanted the same thing (or something similar) that your character wants? Use those understandings to craft a character that is textual accurate and original to your performance.
- Physicality and Voice: Experiment with how the character moves and speaks. Consider their emotional and physical state. Try a variety of speeds, volumes, pitches, breathing moments. Your voice is one of your two tools, use it wisely and effectively.

4. Blocking

- Initial Staging: Work with the director to find basic placements and movements that feel natural and support the story. A CHAIR IS A TRAP. Find places for your character to move in a variety of ways. Utilize levels with other characters so there is variety and interesting tableaux moments for the audience that speak to the character's relationships and emotions.
- Blocking with Purpose: Each movement should be motivated by the character's intentions and reactions. Use pencil to mark blocking in your script. IT WILL CHANGE!
- Determine moments for characters to connect or disconnect. Use eye contact, proximity or distance, and levels.
- Safety Check: Ensure that all movements are safe and practical within the performance space. Check with your scene partners about their comfort level with any physical touch and if there are any fighting type actions (slap, hit, etc...), we will consult a fight coordinator to work through those moments.

5. Exploration

- Experimentation: Try different interpretations of lines and actions to see what feels most authentic and impactful. Try things 5 different ways and choose which feels authentic!
- Improv Exercises: Engage in improvisation exercises related to the scene to discover new insights about the characters and their dynamics.
- Feedback Loop: Regularly gather feedback from the director and peers to refine performances.

6. Refinement

- Fine-Tuning: Focus on the timing of lines, emotional delivery, and interaction with other characters.
- Consistency Checks: Ensure that characters' portrayals remain consistent throughout rehearsals.

7. Run-Throughs

- Off-Book Practice: Perform the scene without scripts as soon as possible to test memory and the fluidity of movements and interactions.
- Full Scene Run-Throughs: Conduct multiple rehearsals focusing only on the scene to solidify blocking and delivery.

8. Performance Preparation

- Final Reviews: Allow time for last-minute adjustments based on director's notes and peer feedback.
- Relaxation and Focus Techniques: Implement techniques to manage nerves and focus, such as breathing exercises or group warm-ups.