

# Cold Reading Technique



## NOTES

## The Steps of Cold Reading

### 1. What is the nature of the script (What type of comedy or drama)?

- How does that affect how you play the scene?
- How can you tell?

### 2. What is the storyline of the scene in one simple sentence?

### 3. Define Relationships

- What is your relationship to everyone mentioned in the scene?
- Who are the people mentioned in the scene?
- What is your relationship to what is going on in the scene?
- How do you feel about the other characters and any butts?
- It cannot be all one way or the other.

### 4. Define the Atmosphere

- Immediate room atmosphere?
- Outdoor atmosphere?
- Think beyond temperature and time of day.

### 5. Define the Preceding events

- What happened to make the scene possible?
- How was your day?
- What happened no more than 30 seconds ago?

### 6. Define the Objective, Motivation & Obstacle (Intention, Reason, Conflict).

- What do you want from the scene?
- Why do you want it?
- What is keeping you from attaining it?

### 7. Define the character's life goal or goals.

- What do you want?
- How are you going to achieve it?
- Why haven't you achieved your life goal?

### 8. Have an opening emotion (derived from step 5).

## TECHNIQUES TO LOOK YOUR BEST

- Memorize the first line or first phrase of dialogue
- Keep your eye on your partner as much as possible
- Hold the script in one hand
- Don't drop the script – Keep it at a comfortable place
- Use the script as an extension of your arm
- Listen and respond
- Don't be pressured to memorize too much
- Keep BREATHING
- Use the space – Don't stand still
- Don't throw away emotions and reactions with your sighs
- Don't censor your honest reaction – That's your individuality – Don't give them what you think they want, give them the truth inside you
- When you have long pieces of text, start on your partner, read, finish on your partner – Find a place in the middle to make eye contact
- ALWAYS start and end on your partner
- When your partner has long pieces of text – React to them, don't hold a pose
- Be BOLD – Take a RISK – Have ENERGY