

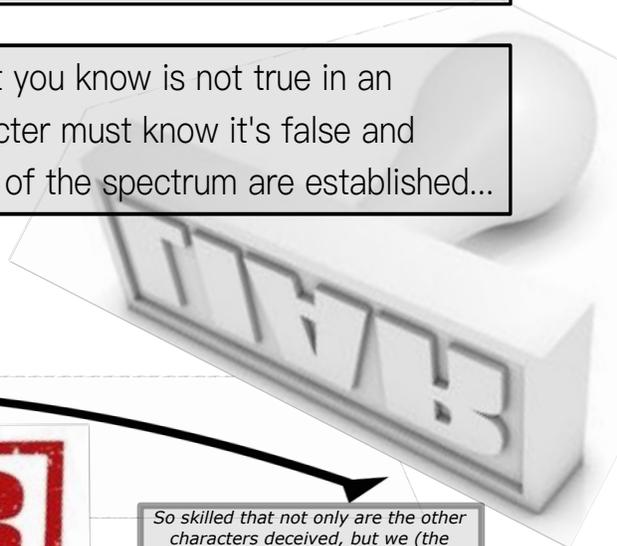
property of Japheth Gordon

LIE Ability

This lesson is designed to train the performance muscle of concealment. In both comedy and drama, actors will often get direction indicating that their character should be a "better liar" or a "worse liar".

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What is a lie anyway? It's when you utter something that you know is not true in an attempt to deceive. The two key parts are: 1) The character must know it's false and 2) The character wants to trick others. So the two ends of the spectrum are established...



Lies Happen in The Presence of Others

Performing a lie is the art of sharing some of the secret info with the audience but not with the other characters.

Establish how good the character is at lying and play that level when your character is still interacting with other characters.

If your character has moments alone (or with confidants) then you may choose to share more of the secret info with the audience.

TELLS:

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- smiling from discomfort
- defensive shrugging
- avoiding eye-contact
- over-compensating
- lost in internal thought
- stifled discovery

Teacher notes

Warm them up with "Tell me no lies slips"

Explain the concept of your character knowing something that other characters can't.

Discuss the spectrum of lying abilities.

Discuss ways to share truth with the audience.

Try short auditions where you challenge them to be better and worse liars.

Alt: You can crowdsource the scenarios by asking Kids things that they have lied about or things kids might lie about and to whom. Write all the scenarios on dry erase and set up Audition on cam situation. Use the board to improv and then redirect up and down the spectrum.