

## CHARACTER ANALYSIS WORKSHEET

CHARACTER NAME:

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ACTOR

NAME:

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*These are just some guiding questions and prompts to consider when building characterization and making compelling choices! By no means are you required to know the answer to each of these questions, but all are worth pondering and giving some thought to.*

*Let's start with Uta Hagen's "Nine Questions" from "Respect for Acting."*

WHO AM I? - This is alluding to the character's life prior to the events within the play or a scene within a play. What has made them into the person we see on stage.

WHERE AM I? - What is the environment, and what does that location contribute to the conditions of the story?

WHAT SURROUNDS ME? - This can be people, objects, animals, colors, textures, etc.

WHAT TIME IS IT? - Not only does this reference the time on the clock but what is the date? What is the year? The century? Is the action somewhere that time exists?

WHAT ARE THE GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES? - The events and conditions that occurred before or during the play that cause the characters to respond and make certain decisions. Essentially, what has been established?

WHAT IS MY RELATIONSHIP? - To other characters? To myself? To other connections not present on stage?

WHAT DO I WANT? - This has to do with objectives and intentions - both the overall character objective throughout the script and beat-to-beat objectives.

WHAT IS IN MY WAY? - What is preventing you from achieving what you want?

WHAT DO I DO TO GET WHAT I WANT? - What sort of actions do you take? Physical? Psychological? Verbal?

*Next, we will be exploring a Short-Form Role Analysis, that was originally developed by Jerry Crawford and was distributed at a regional American College Theatre Festival workshop.*

Character Name:

Character Age:

Character Birthdate:

Astrological Sign:

What is the significance of this sign?

Generally, how physically active is your character?

Name an animal (other than a bird) that in appearance, movement, or manner seems analogous to your role.

What is it about this animal that most specifically relates to your role?

Can you name a person close to you, family or friend, who reminds you of this character? Who and why?

Can you name a famous person who you believe is similar in some respects to your character? Who and why?

Vocally, is your character generally quiet and demure or loud and flamboyant?

If neither, how would you describe their vocal nature?

How would you describe the way your character likes to dress?

How would you describe the way your character likes to style their hair?

Select the three or four major emotions your character seems to encounter the most (Example: fear, love, hate, anger).

Give an example from the script in which each of those emotions is revealed.

What is the motivational force of your character? (Example: in *Death of a Salesman*, Willy wants Biff to love him again.)

What is the major beat or action (key moment) in the play for your specific character? In other words, what is their most important moment?

Create a list of 5-8 major character “likes and dislikes” for your character. (Example: likes macaroni, loves *Criminal Minds*, hates cats, loathes exercise, etc.)