

actions the actors thesaurus

Actions the Actors Thesaurus: Unlocking the Power of Dynamic Performance

actions the actors thesaurus is an invaluable resource for performers seeking to deepen their craft, enrich their characterizations, and bring authenticity to their roles. Whether you're a seasoned actor, a student of drama, or a playwright looking to infuse your script with vivid stage directions, understanding the nuances of physical and emotional actions can transform a flat performance into a compelling experience. In this article, we'll explore what the actions the actors thesaurus offers, how it can be used effectively, and why it remains a cornerstone tool in the world of acting.

What Is the Actions the Actors Thesaurus?

At its core, the actions the actors thesaurus is a carefully curated list or database of verbs and action words that actors can use to describe what their characters are doing, feeling, or intending at any given moment. Unlike a traditional thesaurus that offers synonyms for words, this specialized thesaurus focuses on the verbs that convey intention and physicality—words like “to challenge,” “to soothe,” “to investigate,” or “to provoke.”

The primary goal is to help actors find precise, purposeful actions that drive their performance. These action words are often used to guide how a line should be delivered or how a gesture should be executed. By selecting an action verb that reflects the character's objective, actors can inject energy and clarity into their scenes.

Why Actions Matter in Acting

Acting is not merely about reciting lines but about doing something with those lines. Each word spoken is backed by intent—a desire to influence, respond to, or connect with another character. The actions the actors thesaurus helps performers pinpoint this intent so that their delivery is meaningful rather than mechanical.

For example, saying “I’m sorry” can be expressed in countless ways depending on the chosen action: “to plead,” “to deflect,” “to confess,” or “to beg.” Each of these actions shapes tone, body language, and emotional undercurrent, allowing the actor to create a layered and believable moment on stage or screen.

How to Use the Actions the Actors Thesaurus Effectively

Using an actors' action thesaurus is both an art and a technique. Here are some practical tips for incorporating it into your acting process:

1. Identify Your Character's Objective

Before diving into the thesaurus, clarify what your character wants in the scene. What is their goal? Understanding this helps you select an action verb that aligns with their motivation.

2. Choose Specific, Active Verbs

Avoid vague or passive words. Instead, look for verbs that suggest clear physical or psychological actions. Words like "to confront," "to charm," or "to sabotage" provide rich material for exploration.

3. Experiment With Different Actions

Try delivering the same line with various action verbs to discover which feels most authentic and powerful. This experimentation can reveal new facets of your character's personality and relationships.

4. Combine Actions With Physicality

The thesaurus is not just about words but about movement and intention. Pair an action verb with appropriate gestures, facial expressions, or posture to fully embody your character's purpose.

5. Use Actions to Navigate Emotional Beats

Scenes often shift emotionally. By selecting different actions for each beat, actors can highlight the evolving dynamics and keep the audience engaged.

Popular Actions Found in the Actors Thesaurus

The richness of the actions the actors thesaurus comes from its range of verbs that cover emotional, psychological, and physical dimensions. Here are some categories and examples:

- **Persuading Actions:** to convince, to plead, to negotiate, to coax
- **Challenging Actions:** to confront, to defy, to accuse, to provoke
- **Comforting Actions:** to soothe, to console, to reassure, to embrace
- **Investigative Actions:** to question, to examine, to scrutinize, to probe

- **Deceptive Actions:** to bluff, to mislead, to manipulate, to evade
- **Expressive Actions:** to declare, to confess, to reveal, to boast

This variety allows actors to fine-tune their performances and avoid clichés. Instead of defaulting to “angry” or “sad,” they can pinpoint a more nuanced action like “to simmer” or “to withdraw,” which adds depth.

Incorporating the Actions the Actors Thesaurus Into Rehearsals

The rehearsal process is the perfect time to bring the thesaurus into play. Directors and actors can collaborate to explore different action choices and see how they affect the scene’s energy. Here’s how:

Workshopping Scenes with Action Verbs

Actors can read through their lines and annotate them with chosen action verbs. Then, during rehearsal, they perform the scene with those intentions, paying attention to how the actions influence tone and pacing.

Using Actions to Break Down Complex Scenes

For scenes with multiple shifts or complicated relationships, breaking down the text into small units with distinct actions helps manage the emotional flow. This method also aids memorization and focus.

Encouraging Spontaneity Through Action Exploration

By trying different actions in rehearsals, actors often discover spontaneous moments that feel fresh and alive. This dynamic use of the thesaurus prevents performances from becoming static or predictable.

The Relationship Between Actions and Script Analysis

Understanding the playwright’s intentions requires more than reading lines; it involves dissecting the script to uncover what each character is doing and why. The actions the actors thesaurus supports this analysis by:

- Highlighting the underlying desires behind dialogue
- Revealing power dynamics through verbs indicating dominance or submission
- Clarifying the emotional stakes present in each exchange
- Suggesting physical behaviors that complement or contradict spoken words

By integrating these insights into your preparation, you can approach your role with confidence and depth.

Beyond Acting: How Writers and Directors Benefit from the Actions Thesaurus

While actors are the primary users, playwrights, screenwriters, and directors also find the actions thesaurus useful. Writers can enrich their scripts by incorporating vivid action verbs into stage directions or character descriptions, making scenes more dynamic and easier to interpret.

Directors may use the thesaurus to articulate their vision more clearly during rehearsals, guiding actors toward specific intentions and movements. It becomes a common language that bridges creative ideas and practical execution.

Expanding Your Acting Toolbox with Related Resources

The actions the actors thesaurus works best when combined with other tools and techniques. Some complementary resources include:

- **Emotion Wheels:** To better understand and express complex feelings behind actions.
- **Character Objective Worksheets:** To systematically identify goals and obstacles.
- **Improvisation Exercises:** To practice spontaneous responses based on chosen actions.
- **Script Breakdown Templates:** To organize scene elements and action beats efficiently.

Using these alongside the thesaurus encourages a holistic approach to acting that balances intention, emotion, and movement.

Exploring the world of the actions the actors thesaurus opens up new possibilities for anyone passionate about performance. By choosing deliberate, vibrant actions, actors breathe life into words and stories, creating moments that resonate deeply with audiences. Whether you're stepping onto the stage for the first time or refining a complex role, this resource can guide your journey toward a

more powerful and truthful portrayal.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 'Actions The Actors Thesaurus'?

The 'Actions The Actors Thesaurus' is a comprehensive resource designed to help actors identify and explore various physical and emotional actions to enhance their performance.

How can actors use the 'Actions The Actors Thesaurus' in their craft?

Actors can use the thesaurus to find specific verbs and actions that convey their character's intentions, motivations, and emotions, allowing for more authentic and nuanced performances.

Is the 'Actions The Actors Thesaurus' suitable for beginners?

Yes, it is suitable for actors at all levels, including beginners, as it provides clear examples and a wide range of actions that can help build a strong foundation in acting techniques.

Does the 'Actions The Actors Thesaurus' include emotional actions or only physical ones?

The thesaurus includes both physical and emotional actions, helping actors connect their internal feelings with external behaviors to fully embody their characters.

Where can I find or purchase the 'Actions The Actors Thesaurus'?

The 'Actions The Actors Thesaurus' can typically be found on acting resource websites, bookstores, and platforms like Amazon in both physical and digital formats.

Can the 'Actions The Actors Thesaurus' be used for script analysis?

Yes, actors often use the thesaurus during script analysis to identify clear objectives and actions for their characters, enhancing their understanding and portrayal of the role.

Additional Resources

****Mastering Performance: An In-Depth Review of Actions the Actors Thesaurus****

actions the actors thesaurus serves as an indispensable tool for actors, directors, writers, and performance coaches seeking to enrich their understanding and execution of character intentions.

This resource meticulously catalogs a wide spectrum of verbs and action words designed to describe the myriad ways actors can physically and emotionally manifest their characters' objectives. In the competitive landscape of performance arts, where nuance and authenticity distinguish a memorable portrayal, an actor's ability to access precise action words is invaluable.

The concept behind an actions thesaurus is not merely to offer synonyms but to provide a nuanced vocabulary that informs motivation and behavior on stage or screen. Unlike general thesauri, which focus on linguistic substitution, an actions thesaurus contextualizes verbs within the framework of acting methodologies, such as those popularized by Sanford Meisner, Uta Hagen, and Konstantin Stanislavski. This specificity aids performers in choosing actions that resonate with the psychological and emotional layers of their roles.

Understanding the Role of an Actions Thesaurus in Acting

An actions thesaurus is much more than a list—it is a strategic guide that helps actors translate script intentions into tangible, actionable choices. The resource organizes verbs by their emotional intensity, physicality, and relational dynamics, enabling actors to navigate the subtleties of human behavior. For example, the difference between “to persuade” and “to coax” can significantly alter the delivery and reception of a line, affecting the overall scene's tone.

This tool is particularly useful in breaking down a script's beats. Every line of dialogue carries an underlying objective, and the actor's job is to perform an action that fulfills that objective. An actions thesaurus provides a palette of actions such as “to challenge,” “to reassure,” “to provoke,” or “to invite,” helping actors avoid vague intentions like “be angry” or “be happy,” which can lead to superficial performances.

Key Features and Benefits

- **Comprehensive Verb Lists:** Covers a wide range of emotional and physical actions tailored for performance contexts.
- **Contextual Usage:** Offers examples of how each action can be applied within a scene or character interaction.
- **Emotional Nuance:** Differentiates between subtle variations of similar actions to enhance authenticity.
- **User-Friendly Structure:** Usually organized alphabetically or thematically for quick reference during rehearsals or script analysis.
- **Integration with Acting Techniques:** Aligns with established acting methodologies to foster deeper character work.

The Impact of an Actions Thesaurus on Script Analysis and Character Development

When actors approach a script for the first time, they often grapple with abstract character motivations. An actions thesaurus demystifies this process by providing concrete verbs that can be experimented with during rehearsals. This approach encourages active exploration rather than passive reading, promoting a more immersive connection with the material.

Moreover, directors and acting coaches frequently recommend using an actions thesaurus to sharpen communication between actors and the creative team. It establishes a common vocabulary for discussing intentions and choices, thus streamlining feedback and adjustments. This shared language fosters collaboration and prevents misunderstandings that could dilute the creative vision.

Comparing the Actions Thesaurus to Other Acting Resources

While many actors rely on monologues, scene study guides, or emotion wheels, the actions thesaurus stands out because of its actionable quality. Unlike emotion wheels, which categorize feelings, or monologues that provide practice text, an actions thesaurus directly links the actor's intention with a verb that drives their behavior. This connection is central to method acting and other process-oriented techniques.

Some popular actions thesauri come with digital interfaces or apps, offering search functions and filters by emotional tone, intensity, or relationship type. These technological advancements enhance accessibility and usability, especially for actors working independently.

Challenges and Considerations When Using an Actions Thesaurus

Although the utility of an actions thesaurus is clear, it is important to recognize potential pitfalls. Over-reliance on predefined verbs can lead to mechanical or forced performances if actors do not internalize the motivations behind the actions. The thesaurus should be a starting point, not a script for behavior.

Additionally, cultural context plays a crucial role in how certain actions are perceived and executed. Actors must adapt the verbs to fit the social and historical circumstances of their characters, avoiding a one-size-fits-all application. This nuance requires a sophisticated understanding of the character's background and the scene's dynamics.

Best Practices for Incorporating an Actions Thesaurus into Acting Training

1. **Script Breakdown:** Use the thesaurus during the initial analysis phase to assign specific actions to each beat.
2. **Physical Experimentation:** Practice performing different actions to gauge their impact on emotional delivery and body language.
3. **Collaborative Feedback:** Share chosen actions with directors or coaches to refine appropriateness and effectiveness.
4. **Contextual Adaptation:** Modify actions based on scene objectives and character relationships to maintain authenticity.
5. **Continuous Exploration:** Regularly update and expand your personal library of actions to avoid stagnation and cliché.

The Future of Acting Tools: Digital and Interactive Actions Thesauri

The evolution of digital technology has ushered in interactive platforms that enhance the traditional actions thesaurus format. Mobile apps and web-based tools allow actors to filter actions by mood, character type, or scene setting, making the resource more dynamic and tailored.

Artificial intelligence is also poised to revolutionize thesaurus tools by suggesting actions based on script analysis and user input. This personalized approach could drastically reduce the time actors spend searching for suitable verbs, allowing more focus on embodiment and rehearsal.

Moreover, integration with virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technologies could enable actors to experiment with actions in immersive environments, further bridging the gap between theoretical understanding and practical application.

Actions the actors thesaurus remains a cornerstone resource in the actor's toolkit, fostering precision and depth in performance. Its influence extends beyond vocabulary enhancement, shaping the very way actors approach character motivation and interaction. As the performing arts continue to adapt to technological advancements and evolving methodologies, the thesaurus is likely to expand in scope and functionality, maintaining its relevance in the pursuit of compelling, truthful storytelling.

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actions the actors thesaurus: Actions Marina Caldarone, Maggie Lloyd-Williams, 2004 A vital companion for actors in rehearsal - a thesaurus of action-words to revitalise performance, with a foreword by Terry Johnson. Finding the right action is an essential part of the process of preparation for the actor. Using this thesaurus of active verbs, the actor can refine the action-word until s/he hits exactly the right one to help make the action come alive. The method of 'actioning' is widely used in rehearsal rooms, but has never before been set down in a systematic and comprehensive way. 'If you want to act, or act better, Actions will take you a long way on the journey to excellence' Terry Johnson

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actions the actors thesaurus: ACTIONS THE ACTORS' THESAURUS. M & LLOYD-WILLIAMS CALDARONE (M.), 2022

actions the actors thesaurus: Actors' and Performers' Yearbook 2025 , 2024-10-31 The 20th anniversary edition of this celebrated performing arts industry yearbook. This well-established and respected directory supports actors in their training and search for work in theatre, film, TV, radio and comedy. It is the only directory to provide detailed information for each listing and specific advice on how to approach companies and individuals, saving hours of further research. From agents and casting directors to producing theatres, showreel companies, photographers and much more, this essential reference book editorially selects only the most relevant and reputable contacts for the industry. Covering training and working in theatre, film, radio, TV and comedy, it contains invaluable resources such as a casting calendar and articles on a range of topics from your social media profile to what drama schools are looking for to financial and tax issues. With the listings updated every year, the Actors' and Performers' Yearbook continues to be the go-to guide for help with auditions, interviews and securing/sustaining work within the industry. Actors' and Performers' Yearbook 2025 is fully updated and includes a new foreword by Artistic Director and Chief Executive of The Big House Theatre Company, Maggie Norris, and four new industry new interviews, giving timely advice in response to today's fast-changing industry landscape.

actions the actors thesaurus: To Act Is To Do Richard Alan Nichols, 2018-01-09 To Act Is To Do by Richard Alan Nichols, who studied as a scholarship student for five years with Uta Hagen at the HB Studio in New York, is the ultimate guide for both actors and teachers. In six informative and interactive class sessions, Nichols details twenty exercises designed to solve most acting problems that arise while working on plays. Also included are eighteen evaluations of work (scenes, monologues, and Hagen exercises) presented by Nichols' students, with each evaluation serving as a model for teachers to follow in order to assist actors in learning how to assess their own work in an honest way. This unique exploration—the personal journey of one actor's lifelong quest to perfect his craft while in pursuit of becoming a player—will help all actors develop the discipline necessary to fine-tune their acting instruments and discover new behaviors in themselves.

actions the actors thesaurus: The Actor's Workbook Alex Clifton, 2016-05-05 The Actor's Workbook is an essential workbook for actors, actors in training and teachers of acting and drama. The workbook and video provide a clear, step-by-step guide to learning techniques in acting. The book presents a system of exercises which will develop core acting skills, offers techniques for developing an authored role and models for devising new work. These techniques are based on the practices of Konstantin Stanislavski and his recent theatrical descendants including Uta Hagen, Sanford Meisner, Michael Chekhov and others. The exercises in the book are outlined in a student-centred approach, offering not only in-class exercises, but also pre-class exercises, educational frameworks, teaching-tips, suggested texts through which to apply the work, follow-up exercises and suggestions for further reading in each chapter. Enabling and guiding the actor's sustainable, communicable, believable transformation into an imagined reality, this workbook is filled with powerful and precise acting tools, each underpinned by a rigorous and well-explained philosophy of practice. The Actor's Workbook includes video of the author teaching the exercises, with professional actors demonstrating the techniques to be learned.

actions the actors thesaurus: *Acting on Impulse: Reclaiming the Stanislavski approach* John Gillett, 2007-10-29 A manual full of enabling, easing exercises - it will enable you to analyse any scene. The cry of the actor at sea 'I don't know what I'm doing' should, with this book, become a thing of the past' Sam West I'd recommend this book to anyone wanting an introduction to Stanislavski or Michael Chekhov or acting in general. Matt Peover, LAMDA trainer and theatre director. Contains all the important things that need to be said about learning to act...in an extremely logical and sensible manner. Simon Dunmore, Editor Actor's Yearbook An inspiring and technically thorough practical book for actors that sets down a systematic and coherent process for organic, experienced acting. The author offers a step-by-step and demystifying Stanislavski-based approach to text, role, rehearsal and performance to be used in everyday work, and gathers together in one volume the essential tools for recreating human experience. A nuts-and-bolts practical guide with exercises for the actor to work through sequentially. Contains a Foreword by Sam West. John Gillett builds on his experience of teaching at drama school level as well as many decades of acting. This book, by an actor for actors, is a comprehensive, clear and inspirational guide to creating a truthful, dynamic and audience-captivating performance.

actions the actors thesaurus: *A Beginner's Guide to Directing Theatre* Robert Marsden, 2025-05-29 An accessible guide to the theatre directing process of text-based theatre, from the choice of the play through to an encounter with an audience. Moving from how to choose a play to the opening night, *A Beginner's Guide to Directing Theatre* takes the reader, via a step-by-step approach, through various techniques, practitioners, methodologies and exercises that could be applied to text-based theatre. Through doing so, the reader comes to understand: - The differences between directing (the approach) and the director (the role), how that crosses over and ways to navigate this - A range of practices, methodologies and techniques for the differing and diverse styles, genres, playwrights and movements. i.e. the 'what' of directing - How to create inclusive, safe and diverse practices of casting and rehearsal methods By not providing one single methodology, but introducing readers to various methods, the author garners an understanding of how different plays, genres, styles and movements require their own approaches to reach opening night. Whilst not concentrating on devised or non-text based theatre, the book makes explicit how devising, experiential and improvisatory techniques can be embraced to inform the types of methodologies a director may embrace whilst approaching text-based work. From here, readers will be able to know which practitioners and directing methodologies they may wish to employ and will understand where to head next.

actions the actors thesaurus: *Shakespeare's Authentic Performance Texts* Graham Watts, 2015-01-24 When we pick up a copy of a Shakespeare play, we assume that we hold in our hands an original record of his writing. We don't. Present-day printings are an editor's often subjective version of the script. Around 25 percent of any Shakespeare play will have been altered, and this creates an enormous amount of confusion. The only authentic edition of Shakespeare's works is the First Folio, published by his friends and colleagues in 1623. This volume makes the case for printing and staging the plays as set in the First Folio, which preserved actor cues that helped players understand and perform their roles. The practices of modern editors are critiqued. Also included are sections on analyzing and acting the text, how a complex character can be created using the First Folio, and a director's approach to rehearsing Shakespeare with various exercises for both professional and student actors. In conclusion, all of the findings are applied to Measure for Measure.

actions the actors thesaurus: *Acting Stanislavski* John Gillett, 2014-02-13 Stanislavski was the first to outline a systematic approach for using our experience, imagination and observation to create truthful acting. 150 years after his birth, his approach is more widely embraced and taught throughout the world - but is still often rejected, misunderstood and misapplied. In *Acting Stanislavski*, John Gillett offers a clear, accessible and comprehensive account of the Stanislavski approach, from the actor's training to final performance, exploring: ease and focus the nature of action, interaction and objectives the imaginary reality, senses and feeling active analysis of text physical and vocal expression of character the actor in the context of training and the industry.

Drawing on Stanislavski's major books, in both English translations, and on records of his directing process and final studio classes, *Acting Stanislavski* demystifies terms and concepts. It is for actors from an actor's point of view, and offers many practical exercises and examples as an integrated part of each subject. *Acting Stanislavski* also creates an up-to-date overview of the Stanislavski approach, connecting his legacy with the work of his successors, from Michael Chekhov to Meisner, Adler and Strasberg. A new, extended and fully updated edition of *Acting on Impulse: Reclaiming the Stanislavski Approach* (Methuen Drama, 2007), *Acting Stanislavski* now includes new exercises and biographies, a further chapter on The Character, and an expanded glossary along with many other additions to the previous chapters. It is an essential practical and educational resource for any acting student, professional or teacher.

actions the actors thesaurus: A Monologue is an Outrageous Situation! Herb Parker, 2016-02-19 A Monologue is an Outrageous Situation! How to Survive the 60-Second Audition explains how to successfully tackle the cattle call acting audition with a sixty-second monologue. Through Q&As, tips, director's notes, and a glossary full of outrageous actions meant to inspire the actor into truly connecting with the piece, this book shows actors where and how to find a monologue, edit it, and give the best audition possible.

actions the actors thesaurus: Dramatic Techniques for Creative Writers Jules Horne, 2018-07-24 ARE YOU READY TO RAISE YOUR WRITING GAME? Discover ADVANCED CREATIVE WRITING TECHNIQUES to take your fiction, drama and poetry to a new level! Dramatic techniques are all about bold, clear, high-impact writing. Once you discover the craft concepts that writers in the screen, stage and publishing industries use to bring stories to life, you'll never look back. Dramatic techniques work. They've survived the bearpit of live audiences. They cut through the mud. They make it super-easy to edit, because they provide clear ways to handle structure. Authors who don't have a firm grasp on these powerful strategies are seriously missing out! Dramatic techniques are core narrative skills, and they'll supercharge your writing and editing. This practical guide to dramatic concepts will give you confidence in structure, plotting and character. You'll kick yourself for not discovering them sooner. I wrote fiction for years. Then I started writing scripts professionally. I was stunned by how little I knew. All the craft techniques I was missing. Why? Because dramatic, prose and poetry writers move in different worlds. So they don't share professional secrets. Things like: - dramatic action and how to drive a scene - how to write subtext - how to use status to create more dynamic characters - how to use objects, space, rituals and transformations - the dynamics of private and public settings This book is packed with advanced writing craft concepts from the world of film, stage, and professional industry-level storytelling. If you want to move your writing up a gear, this is for you.

actions the actors thesaurus: Greek Tragedy and the Contemporary Actor Zachary Dunbar, Stephe Harrop, 2018-11-11 This book offers a provocative and groundbreaking re-appraisal of the demands of acting ancient tragedy, informed by cutting-edge scholarship in the fields of actor training, theatre history, and classical reception. Its interdisciplinary reach means that it is uniquely positioned to identify, interrogate, and de-mystify the clichés which cluster around Greek tragedy, giving acting students, teachers, and theatre-makers the chance to access a vital range of current debates, and modelling ways in which an enhanced understanding of this material can serve as the stimulus for new experiments in the studio or rehearsal room. Two theoretical chapters contend that Aristotelian readings of tragedy, especially when combined with elements of Stanislavski's (early) actor-training practice, can actually prevent actors from interacting productively with ancient plays and practices. The four chapters which follow (Acting Sound, Acting Myth, Acting Space, and Acting Chorus) examine specific challenges in detail, combining historical summaries with a survey of key modern practitioners, and a sequence of practical exercises.

actions the actors thesaurus: Building a Performance John Basil, Dennis Schebetta, 2022-03-11 Congratulations! You got the part! Now what? Many actors of all levels find it challenging to apply classroom and studio techniques to the rehearsal process. Rehearsing for a class is vastly different than a professional situation, and a consistent, practical, and constructive

method is needed to truly bring to life vibrant and intricate characters. *Building a Performance: An Actor's Guide to Rehearsal* provides tools and techniques through different stages of the rehearsal process to enable actors to make more dynamic choices, craft complex characters, and find an engaging and powerful level of performance. John Basil and Dennis Schebetta bring decades of acting and teaching experience to help actors apply the skills they learned in the classroom directly to the professional rehearsal room or film/television set. They show how to glean distinct choices from early readings of the script, how to add dynamics to their physical and vocal decisions, how to explore interactions with other actors in rehearsal, and how to address specific challenges unique to each role. While students will benefit from the practical applications and advice, intermediate and advanced actors will find exciting and new ways to engage with the material and with other actors at rehearsal. Actors of all levels will gain tips and techniques so that they can continue to discover more about their character. With these tools, actors will be inspired to dig into the text and build a dynamic performance.

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actions the actors thesaurus: *National Theatre Connections 2014* Sabrina Mahfouz, Simon Vinnicombe, Catherine Johnson, Pauline McLynn, Daf James, Luke Norris, Sam Holcroft, Matt Hartley, Deborah Bruce, Evan Placey, 2014-05-08 Drawing together the work of ten leading playwrights - a mixture of established and emerging writers - this *National Theatre Connections* anthology is published to coincide with the 2014 festival, which takes place across the UK and finishes up at the National Theatre in London. It offers young performers between the ages of thirteen and nineteen everywhere an engaging selection of plays to perform, read or study. Each play is specifically commissioned by the National Theatre's literary department with the young performer in mind. The plays are performed by approximately 200 schools and youth theatre companies across the UK and Ireland, in partnership with multiple professional regional theatres where the works are showcased. As with previous anthologies, the volume will feature an introduction by Anthony Banks, Associate Director of the National Theatre Discover Programme, and each play includes notes from the writer and director addressing the themes and ideas behind the play, as well as production notes and exercises. The *National Theatre Connections* series has been running for nineteen years and the anthology that accompanies it, published for the last three years by Methuen Drama, is gaining a greater profile by the year. Some iconic plays have grown out of the *Connections* programme including *Citizenship* by Mark Ravenhill, *Burn* by Deborah Gearing, *Chatroom* by Enda Walsh, *Baby Girl* by Roy Williams, *DNA* by Dennis Kelly, and *The Miracle* by Lin Coghlan. The series has a recognisable brand and the anthologies continue to be an extremely useful resource, their value extending well beyond their year of publication. This year's anthology includes plays by Sabrina Mahfouz, Simon Vinnicombe, Catherine Johnson, Pauline McLynn, Dafydd James, Luke Norris and Sam Holcroft.

actions the actors thesaurus: *Directing - a Handbook for Emerging Theatre Directors* Rob Swain, 2011-09-29 The theatre director is one of the most critical roles in a successful drama company, yet there are no formal qualifications required for entry into this profession. This practical guide for emerging theatre directors answers all the key questions from the very beginning of your

career to key stages as you establish your credentials and get professionally recognized. It analyzes the director's role through relationships with the actors, author, designer, production manager and creative teams and provides vital advice for on-the-job situations where professional experience is invaluable. The book also provides an overview of the many approaches to acting methodology without focusing on any in particular to allow the director to develop their own unique methods of working with any actor's style. Each chapter includes these key features: * Introduces important theories, identifies practitioners and provides key reading to provide an overview of historic and current practice. * Interviews with leading practitioners and emerging directors. * Suggested exercises to develop the director's own approach and practical skills.

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