

THE CLASSROOM AS STAGE

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I. The Teacher as Performer

A. Parallels of Performing and Teaching

1. Art of Communication

- Non-verbal
- Verbal
- Content

2. Goal

- Engagement of audience
- Interest in subject

3. Physical Setting

- Stand before audience
- Architecture: seating and lighting
- Staging: maneuvering furniture and props

4. Known Text

- Communication of material
- Make what is inactive, active

B. Parallels to Acting – Basic Principles

1. Intention - objective in classroom

2. Focus

- Students, not text
- Eye contact

3. Follow-through

4. Energy

- Warming up
- Stamina
- Play through to end

5. Projection

- Play to back of house
- Scan from side to side
- Fill the house

II. Creating Interest/Drama

A. Opposition

1. Physical – arrested action
2. Vocal – suspended tones

B. Timing – pause

C. Physical Presence

1. Gestures/Movement
2. Release

D. Vocal Delivery

1. Variables – volume, rate, pitch, tone
2. Articulation – consonants and vowels
3. Focus – nouns and verbs
4. Drive through end of line
5. Punch last word