
Executive Certificate in Acting for Film and Television

On-Camera Acting Techniques

On-camera acting techniques are a set of skills and methods that actors use to effectively perform in film and television. These techniques differ from those used in stage acting, as the camera allows for close-ups and intimate shots that require subtle and nuanced performances. In this explanation, we will cover key terms and vocabulary related to on-camera acting techniques in the context of the Executive Certificate in Acting for Film and Television.

1. **Framing:** Framing refers to the way in which the camera captures the actor within the shot. Different frames, such as close-ups, medium shots, and wide shots, require different acting techniques. For example, a close-up requires the actor to convey emotions and reactions through subtle facial expressions and body language, while a wide shot may require larger movements and gestures to convey the same emotions.
2. **Continuity:** Continuity refers to the consistent portrayal of a character and their actions throughout a scene or film. Actors must be aware of their character's history, motivations, and actions in order to maintain continuity. This includes paying attention to details such as props, costume, and makeup, as well as ensuring that their performance is consistent with previous takes.
3. **Eye Line:** Eye line refers to the direction in which an actor is looking while performing. In on-camera acting, it is important for actors to maintain the correct eye line in order to create the illusion of looking directly at another character or object. This is achieved through the use of marks or tape on the floor or walls to indicate the correct position for the actor's gaze.
4. **Blocking:** Blocking refers to the movement and positioning of actors within a scene. In on-camera acting, blocking is carefully planned and rehearsed in order to ensure that the actor's movements are captured effectively by the camera. This includes paying attention to the position of the camera, lighting, and other technical elements.
5. **Subtext:** Subtext refers to the underlying meaning or emotions that are not explicitly stated in a character's dialogue. Actors must be able to identify and convey the subtext of a scene in order to create a believable and engaging performance. This can be achieved through the use of body language, facial expressions, and tone of voice.
6. **Character Development:** Character development refers to the process of creating and building a believable and multi-dimensional character. This includes understanding the character's history, motivations, and relationships, as well as their physical and emotional characteristics. Actors must be able to convincingly portray their character's growth and evolution throughout a scene or film.
7. **Scene Study:** Scene study is the process of analyzing and rehearsing a specific scene in order to prepare for a performance. This includes breaking down the scene into beats, understanding the character's objectives and actions, and identifying the subtext and emotional arc of the scene.
8. **Improvisation:** Improvisation refers to the act of creating and performing without a script. This can be used in on-camera acting to explore a character's motivations and actions, as well as to add spontaneity and authenticity to a performance.
9. **Audition Technique:** Audition technique refers to the skills and strategies used to prepare and perform for

an audition. This includes understanding the character, script, and context of the audition, as well as techniques for dealing with nerves and anxiety.

10. Vocal Technique: Vocal technique refers to the skills and methods used to effectively use the voice in on-camera acting. This includes projection, articulation, and breath control, as well as techniques for conveying emotion and subtext through the voice.

11. Physical Technique: Physical technique refers to the skills and methods used to effectively use the body in on-camera acting. This includes movement, posture, and gesture, as well as techniques for conveying emotion and subtext through body language.

12. On-Camera Technique: On-camera technique refers to the specific skills and methods used to perform effectively in front of a camera. This includes understanding the technical aspects of filmmaking, such as framing, continuity, and eye line, as well as techniques for conveying emotion and subtext through subtle and nuanced performances.

In order to apply these techniques, actors must also be able to take direction from the director and adjust their performance accordingly. This requires good listening skills, the ability to quickly understand and implement instructions, and the flexibility to make changes to their performance as needed.

Challenges in on-camera acting include working with limited time and resources, dealing with the technical aspects of filmmaking, and maintaining continuity and consistency throughout a scene or film. Additionally, actors must be able to convincingly portray a wide range of emotions and character types, often in a short amount of time.

Examples of successful on-camera acting can be seen in films and television shows such as "The Shawshank Redemption," "Breaking Bad," and "The Crown." These performances demonstrate the ability to convey complex emotions and subtext through subtle and nuanced performances, as well as the ability to maintain continuity and consistency throughout a scene or film.

In conclusion, on-camera acting techniques are a crucial part of the Executive Certificate in Acting for Film and Television. These techniques include framing, continuity, eye line, blocking, subtext, character development, scene study, improvisation, audition technique, vocal technique, physical technique, and on-camera technique. Actors must be able to apply these techniques in order to effectively perform in front of a camera and create believable and engaging characters. Challenges in on-camera acting include working with limited time and resources, dealing with the technical aspects of filmmaking, and maintaining continuity and consistency throughout a scene or film. Successful on-camera acting can be seen in films and television shows such as "The Shawshank Redemption," "Breaking Bad," and "The Crown."