

Acting Through Song

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Session Aims

- Introduce fundamental vocabularies
- Appreciate technique in performance
- Get a heads up on preparing your audition songs



Why do we study Acting Through Song?

- Focus on storytelling
- Prioritise text over voice
- Practice working with direction
- Develop flexibility/versatility.



Starting my own song

Establishing the given circumstances

Who am I talking to?

What do I want?

What are the stakes?

(How badly do I want it? What will happen if I don't get it?)

What has **just** happened to make me sing?



Task 1

Now I'd like you to choose a song you would like to work on and answer the previous questions in detail.

Remember:

- Be specific
- Be clear
- Keep it simple, acting shouldn't be overly complicated, but it needs to be

Actioning – A Way To Make Text Active

Actions – What am I **doing** to my **target**

An *Action* is a *transitive verb* which creates behavior.

Some practitioners believe that the best actions fit the formula:

I **Verb** You

I **Verb** Target

or

'I Implore God'

'I Beg God'

'I Cradle Marius'



Actioning – Please Watch

Please watch the following YouTube Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ohbh3bo5HDA>

Notice how each action creates new, specific behavior.

Actioning – Examples and Practice

Attached in this web resource is an Actions Chart.

There are two versions:

- An example, to Lost in the Wilderness (Children of Eden)
- A blank template for you to use with your own song.

Look through both, pay attention to the instructions and try it out!

Audition Material Advice

- Choose audition pieces which allow us insight in to who you are
- Be careful of vocal “risks”
- Avoid songs with a ‘character’- voice performance (Avenue Q, Adelaide’s Lament etc)
- Monologues – don’t give yourself too many challenges in terms of character
- Work with the voice you have now, not the voice you want to have in 5 years!



Thank
You