



Acting: Moment to Moment

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Deanna Armentrout received her BFA in Theater from the University of Detroit and her MFA in Performance from the University of Texas at Austin. During her graduate training she taught both acting and training the speaking voice. When she first came to Willow Creek she and her husband, Rod joined the main stage Drama Team where they have served for eighteen years. As a member of the team, she primarily volunteers as an actor, but she has also served as trainer. For ten years Deanna was Drama Director in Promiseland with responsibilities including directing, training and shepherding a children's' and an adult drama team who serve on the stages of Promiseland during weekend services. Currently in Promiseland, Deanna's role is Artistic Development. Her focus is training staff and volunteers in the areas of upfront communication, acting and directing. She has sixteen combined years of acting experience in university, professional, children's and improvisational theatre. Deanna is passionate about drama and the impact it can have on people's lives. She is committed to developing people's gifts that creatively and effectively communicate truth which will prepare hearts to hear God's Word. The on-going production in her life is her wonderful son Erik and beautiful daughter Anya!

Session Goal:

To engage your ability to listen, to trust your sense of truth and to follow your impulses as a way of discovering what it means to be in the moment.

Being in the *Moment*?

Prepare, then improvise.

1. Listening

- Repeating (physical observation)
- Story circle

2. Sense of Truth (a built in sense)

- Don't deny it
- Develop it

3. Impulses (instincts, intuition)

We are activated to say or do something which is in RESPONSE to *listening* and our *sense of truth*.

OBJECTIVE EXERCISE

ACCEPT: Accept your imaginary circumstances
(What would I do if I were this character in this situation?)

PURSUE: Pursue your objective *(What do I want?)*

RESPOND: Respond to the other human beings in your imaginary world.
(What do I want to say or do in response to what I just heard or saw?)

EXAMPLE-

Both participants would have the following information.

EXERCISE 30 (TWO PEOPLE, EITHER SEX)

The Characters: Two combat medics

The Setting: The remains of a building, relatively unprotected, in the middle of a combat zone.

The Situation: Both are medics in the same unit. During this particular skirmish Medic #1's left leg was severely injured by small arms fire. Medic #2 was able to tend the wound, but a sudden attack has separated the medics from their supplies, weapons, and the rest of their unit. To the best of their knowledge they are now surrounded by the enemy. Nightfall is eminent, and it is very cold. Although both are dedicated medics, they are not good friends.

Only one of the participants would have the following knowledge going into the exercise. The second participant would have different information.

Medic #1's Objective: You became a medic because you are a pacifist who decided to serve your country in this way rather than as a conscientious objector. You are deeply concerned for all humanity. You feel that Medic #2 is rather callous and entirely motivated by plans to be a doctor for the money, power and recognition that career can offer. However, you are very respectful of the knowledge, skill and courage this person obviously possesses.

RESOURCES:

Abbott, Leslie Active Acting – Exercises And Improvisations Leading to Performance.
Belmont California/Star Publishing Col., 1987.

The Sanford Meisner Approach and Actor's Workbook by Larry Silverberg
Publisher: Smith and Kraus Book, 1994.