

AS1: A SUMMARY OF RESEARCH – SECTION 2 – SAMPLE 1

SKILLS REQUIRED FOR AN ACTOR

Actors bring a script to life by interpreting others' words and put flesh and blood onto the character they portray. Actors can work in theatre, film, radio and television. they can also work as models, provide voice overs for adverts, documentaries, dubbing and audio books, so the skills needed are wide ranging.

Characterisation - to make the character more believable and interesting the characterisation has to be right. This can be achieved simply by believing your portrayal of the character, some actors even live the lives of the characters before they play the role on stage or in films as they think this helps them understand the character more and so create a more believable performance.

Facial expression - the key way to show the characters emotions is through the facial expressions. Mono - expressions or a blank face can create dull and lifeless performance, whereas screwing up your face can show anger for example.

Gestures are also important in showing emotions for example folding your arms can show distance and dislike between characters and is a defensive gesture recognisable to the audience

Movement skills - this is the most important aspect of skills needed to be an actor. Control, co-ordination are used to produce a skilled performance so that movement is continuous and confident. Gesture, poise, posture and spatial awareness are important as they set the mood of the piece a horror performance would have lots of stillness whereas a comedy would be fast paced and have lots of movement.

Vocal skills - to pass your message on to the audience you need to have vocal skills. These include volume, tone, pitch, pace, pause all help show your character's feelings. You must also be clear and project your voice so the audience can hear what you have to say. Accent is another skill an actor needs to show where the character is from. Any one of these can be changed or left out to fit the atmosphere of the piece or characters emotions

an actor must be determined and versatile because it is quite hard to get a job and you can be out of work for long periods of time.

Actors have to audition for parts so need to be good at reading scripts or doing improvisations.

Actors need to be skilled at taking orders from directors and working with others as part of the cast.