Sixth Edition

The Actor in You

Twelve Simple Steps to Understanding the Art of Acting

Robert Benedetti
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My book for advanced actors, The Actor at Work, has been through ten editions over more than forty years in print. When I first set out to write this book for beginning actors I had to examine the advanced book and distill from it the most fundamental elements of the art, find a way to express them in simple language, and arrange them in a logical and effective sequence. This process was a valuable experience for me, and over the five subsequent editions I have had a chance to refine my own understanding of the art of acting as I received comments from users and the reviewers of the first five editions. Most useful was my own recent experience in teaching beginning acting; I was surprised at the changes in students over the past several years as the impact of the digital revolution revealed itself in their changing relationship to the text and the act of speaking aloud. As a result, I have revised The Actor in You extensively.

New to the Sixth Edition

This book is designed for students at the introductory level, whether they are beginning a training process to become professional actors or merely want to enhance their understanding and appreciation of the actor's art; the language has been kept simple and direct, and terminology is carefully explained when introduced.

- This sixth edition has been revised according to many suggestions from users of the previous editions and input from my students and professional actors who have used the book.
- This edition has been reorganized from the original sixteen steps into twelve easy steps that lead to an understanding and experience of the acting process.
- The overall structure has been simplified from four parts to three. This tightening of the book’s structure is intended to give instructors more latitude to vary the content of the course to fit their own teaching approaches.
- A new chapter has been added on voice and speech in recognition of the fact that today’s students, children of the digital revolution, have less experience in speaking aloud than did previous generations.
- Yet another new chapter provides the basis for an initial analysis of the text.
- Another new chapter has been added on personalization with techniques for entering into the life of the character.
- The final steps now provide a more complete view of the rehearsal process.
- Throughout, I use examples from three widely available plays: Arthur Miller’s Death of a Salesman, Lorraine Hansberry’s A Raisin in the Sun, and Tennessee Williams’s The Glass Menagerie. These plays should be read at the outset in order to better understand my examples.

This text is available in a variety of formats—digital and print. To learn more about Pearson’s titles, pricing options and customization opportunities, visit www.pearsonhighered.com.
Preface

Glossary
Many theater terms are defined in the glossary at the end of the book. These terms are in boldface when they first appear in the body of the text.

Teaching Guide
The author has written a Teaching Guide (0-205-91493-4) to accompany *The Actor in You: Twelve Simple Steps to Understanding the Art of Acting*. This supplement is available as a downloadable file at www.pearsonhighered.com/irc (access code required).

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About the Author
A distinguished teacher of acting and directing, and recipient of multiple Emmy and Peabody Awards as a film producer, Robert Benedetti received his Ph.D. from Northwestern University. He was an early member of Chicago’s Second City Theatre and then taught acting for over fifty years at schools including the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, Carnegie Mellon University, the National Theatre School of Canada, the University of California–Riverside, the University of Nevada–Las Vegas, and the Santa Fe University of Art and Design. He was Chairman of the Programme in Theatre at York University in Toronto, Chairman of the acting program at the Yale Drama School, and Dean of Theatre at the California Institute of the Arts.

Dr. Benedetti has directed at many regional theaters—including the Tyrone Guthrie Theatre; the Oregon, Colorado, and Great Lakes Shakespeare festivals; and the Milwaukee, San Diego, and South Coast Repertory Theatres—and overseas at the Melbourne Repertory Theatre (Australia), Repertory Theatre and the Berlin Festival.

As a film writer and producer, he won three Emmys and a Peabody award for producing *Miss Evers’ Boys* and *A Lesson before Dying* for HBO. He has written and produced numerous other films.

In 2005, Benedetti received the Lifetime Career Achievement Award from the Association for Theatre in Higher Education. In 2012, he was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Theatre.

Dr. Benedetti has written six books on acting and film production, including *The Actor at Work (Tenth Edition)*, *ACTION! Acting for Film and Television*, and *From Concept to Screen: An Overview of Film and Television Production*. All are available from Pearson Education.