

You have watched videos on what it means to be a working actor and the actor/director relationship

1. Please share with the class what you found most interesting about either of these topics. Did you learn something new or surprising?
2. Explain why you found that interesting or surprising

This week we take a look at the play "Miss Julie" and the rehearsal process. It is a glimpse into the interaction between the actors and director as well as a look at one of the great plays of the late 1800's.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-P\\_c7qPSkM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-P_c7qPSkM)

By the end of this module you should be able to

- Explain the Actor/Director relationship
- Discuss the difficulties of being a professional actor
- Understand the place of experimentation in the rehearsal process
- Describe the basics of *Miss Julie*
  - Where is the play set
  - When is the play set
  - Who are the main characters
- Discuss the conflicts within the story

### 3.1 The life of an Actor



#### A Working Actor

There are very few superstars in the world of professional acting. There are many actors making a living on stage and film who are not household names but still have very successful and fulfilling careers. In this video, we get to hear from several successful actors and get a glimpse into what this means. The video shows us the joys and the difficulties of a life on stage. I hope after watching this you will get a better idea of the willingness to work hard and the commitment to the craft that an actor must have to succeed.

What to note while watching:

- What are the struggles that face a professional actor
- The difficulties of the audition process
- The personal drive of these actors
- How they handle rejection

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## A Look at How a Script Comes to Life

In this module we will watch rehearsal scenes and performance of part of Act 1 of August Strindberg's play "Miss Julie". The video will give you a glimpse of the how the actors and director develop the play through discussion, personal exploration, and experimentation to bring the characters and story to life.

A script at its most basic is a chronological listing of the words that the actors are to speak. There may be a lot of descriptions of the the characters and the settings or sometimes it is only indicates what actors say what lines. It is the job of the director, actors and designers to bring the words to life and find the meaning within the play. It is in this collaboration and reading between the lines of script that the production develops a life of its own. This is the kitchen within which the ingredients of the play are put together.

### The Actor-Director In Process

The process of putting a play onstage is dictated by the process a director chooses. The best stage directors use a collaborative process in developing a play. This includes input from all of the actors as well as the designers in the production. Basically, the director brings together the best and most creative actors and designers together and uses this group creativity to develop an end product better than what one person could create.

Here is a short video of Director Sam Mendes describing his process. The key to his process is experimentation and getting the actors to explore a variety of options. Some of these "games" are just to get the actors working as a team, sometimes it is just to break up the routine, and sometimes it is an exploration of an idea to put on stage.

[Sam Mendes on Directing](#) ↗



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JevThnO92\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JevThnO92_c)

### Collaborative Art

Unlike painting or sculpture in which an artist sitting alone develops and creates artistic works, theatre is at its very core a collaborative exercise. We have discussed many of the people and roles they play in putting on a stage performance. The following video takes us through the development of a play from auditions to opening night.

What to take note of while watching the video:

- The process of auditioning
- How the director guides the actors in the act of discover
- How the actors explore their roles and the motivations for the words spoken and the action taken
- The use of experimentation (Not all all experiments work, but even a failed experiment can be learning experience)