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Top Ten Tips

for great sketches



1. **Speak Up!**

Speak clearly and loudly - from your diaphragm, don't shout.

2. **Remember where the audience are**

Make sure you are speaking towards them (don't turn your back) and make sure you aren't blocking someone else.



3. **Don't distract from the action**

If you aren't involved at any point make sure the audience are focused on the action not on you fidgeting or scratching your nose!

4. **Keep it simple**

Keep costumes and staging simple. You can create a great impression with simple props or extra items of clothing to suggest character (e.g. hat, scarf, glasses, etc). Let the audience's imagination do the heavy lifting not the stage-hand.



5. **Rehearse, rehearse, rehearse**

Learn your lines, practice your movements. Rehearse as much as you can.

6. **Take it slow**

Don't rush. Don't speak over other actors' lines and allow the audience to catch up (e.g. if they laugh, pause, don't carry on with your line until you will be heard).



7. **Spend time on the script**

A great script gives you the best shot at success so, if you are not using a tried & tested script, work hard to refine yours. If things don't work change them (e.g. if lines that looked great when written don't work when spoken change them).

8. **Humour helps**

Most of the time using humour breaks the atmosphere and gets your audience engaged. Even for serious subjects lightening the mood with a little humour prevents things getting too tense.



9. **Avoid gimmicks**

Unless you are very, very good at them, avoid things like accents or impersonations - they can be hard to sustain and can be distracting.

10. **If anything goes wrong: just smile and look professional**

In all likelihood your audience won't know what was supposed to happen so don't magnify mistakes, just keep calm and carry on regardless!

