

How to Memorize a Great Deal of Lines (In a Timely Manner)

Congratulations! You got a part that involves a large number of lines or just lines in general (that's a pretty big deal in the theatre world). If you didn't want that many lines, man are you in for a ride. There aren't any do-overs so you're just gonna have to deal with the part you got and get your job done. This job of course is to memorize all the lines before off book date. Naturally there are other jobs that you have to complete over the course of the show, but here is where you should start. This is all assuming you aren't here for a quick tip on how to memorize all of it the night before off-book date. If that's the case, one, good luck, and two, I guess you can read all of this, there may be some good tips (Everything highlighted in "red" can help you a lot). First, make sure you are always keeping the lines in your mind. The easiest way to have off book date sneak up on you is to completely forget that you have to memorize all the lines. Reading over the script or more specifically your lines should be a part of your daily routine. That being said, DO NOT let the show take over all your free time, it is important to still remember who you are through the show process. I've fallen victim to this a couple of times and ended up going through fall outs with my friends as I would only speak and act as that character. Second, **be sure to stay calm throughout the entire memorization process**. The easiest way to NOT learn your lines is to get worked up about them. Split up each scene or line section and space out your time on each section. This will allow you to be more calm throughout the process as you know exactly what you are doing and when. Something you may say about the process is that it is difficult to memorize when you don't have blocking. This can be true as many people in the theater world are visual learners, but DO NOT let this stop you from getting a head start. The more familiar you are with the lines going through the process, the easier it will be to memorize

them later on. Third, be sure to learn the lines in order. When going through the show process you may not run through each scene in order, this can throw off your brain and stop it from being organized through the process. Learning the lines in order can keep your brain organized and on track. Fourth, don't stress yourself too much about reciting the lines verbatim. The best thing to do when memorizing lines is to get the gist of the line at first and polish it up later. After all, you are trying to get a large number of lines in your brain before off-book date and it is still considered a rehearsal. (TIP for all you slackers: memorize the scenes that you have to perform on off-book date first, there will be a line test but if you are trying to avoid the wrath of Davey this is the easiest way to do it). Fifth, when actually memorizing the lines be sure to add a flare to it so it's easier to memorize. Something I have always done is read the lines about six times, said it in a funny voice a couple times, and then finally said it in the voice I would use in the show. This sparks something in your brain that cements it. Along with that, be sure to find as many connections from your life to the lines as you can. This will trigger a life to text connection which will make the lines easier to remember. Finally, be sure to stay positive and have fun! This is a fun process that you have willingly thrown yourself into as you have a love for theater. It should never be a negative thing, but I understand when you have other priorities it can be hard to manage. Well there ya go, those are my tips on how to stay on top of your lines and get them memorized and ready for off book! Remember to stay calm and confident, you can do this!

- Nathan Maroko