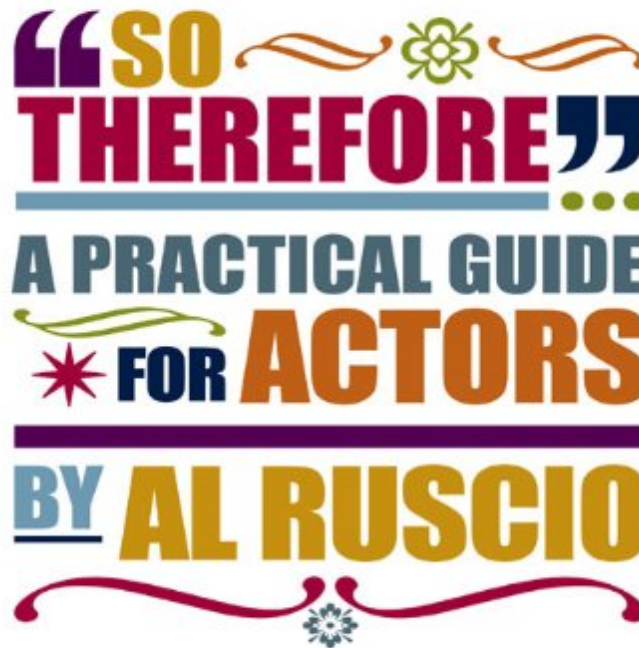


(Download ebook) So Therefore...: A Practical Guide For Actors

So Therefore...: A Practical Guide For Actors

Al Ruscio

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"...an absolute joy on many levels ... I recommend it highly to everyone, not only actors or those involved in theatre and film – everyone."

– Academy Award winner Martin Landau

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Al Ruscio : So Therefore...: A Practical Guide For Actors before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised So Therefore...: A Practical Guide For Actors:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Al Ruscio - An amazing teacher
By Customer
I am so excited to see this book here. I studied with acting with Al Ruscio back in the '80s and I still have my three ring binder version of his book. Al taught me more in the first few months I took his scene workshop than I had learned in all of my previous training which included a theater major from highly respected theater department. This book gave me the framework I needed to be able to use everything else I had been taught. Even though I haven't seen Al in 30 years I think of him often and even named my daughter "Alice." His class and way of thinking about acting really changed my life. I am so happy to think that others will be able to read his words and find the same inspiration and insight that I did.
3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great !!
By Lisa
This is a great book and not just for actors. I'm a film editor and being able to analyse a script is essential to being able to cut it. I found the exercises and examples in this book

incredibly useful. I can ask myself the same questions Al Ruscio asks of the actor and, in answering them, will be better equipped to choose performances and structure a scene. "So therefore?" , his essential question and the title of the book exemplifies this- like the actor, an editor must understand that every action must have a purpose behind it so that every cut will have a purpose behind it. This is a wonderful resource for all filmmakers. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Terrific book By Sandman I really liked this book a lot. I'm a screenwriter who has taken acting classes to aid my writing and I found Al Ruscio's approach very incisive and helpful. His exercises on character analysis, objective of scene as well as the primary questions "so therefore" and "as if" are as relevant to writing a they are to acting. They provide great tools that allow you to understand individual scenes and how they fit into the whole. His thoughts on subtext and the importance of keeping focused on the spine of the story are also extremely valuable. So writers - READ THIS BOOK- it'll give you a better grasp of the acting process and provide a real leg up to writing great scripts.

Every scene or action or speech has a so therefore. It is the goal, the ultimate statement of the character. You should know the so therefore as you begin your scene ... The climax and the payoff is the so therefore. — from Al Ruscio's Preface When working through a scene with a student, renowned actor and acting teacher Al Ruscio will ask, "so therefore, what?" to urge them to capture the specific actions and desires that define their character at that moment. So Therefore! interweaves tried-and-tested practical exercises with sound advice, and illustrative tales from Ruscio's remarkable career, to form a training handbook as uniquely pragmatic as his favourite phrase. Breaking down his method into three broad focuses, Ruscio considers: Warming Up — including relaxation, going beneath the words; and emotional recall; Scene Work — ranging from character analysis to an exploration of action; The Play — discovering its spine, progressing through rehearsals and sustaining a performance. But So Therefore! also reflects wisely on such diverse subjects as Stage versus Film, and Stamina, Luck and Chutzpah. Enriching and generous, it is the culmination of a career that has taken in dozens of major motion pictures, and spans the entire history of television — as well as half a century spent training actors. Al Ruscio graduated from the famed Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre and has been teaching acting for five decades. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Screen Actors Guild and is a current voting member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

'In this succinct guide, Ruscio draws on his successful 40-year career of film and stage experience and his professional acting training with Sandy Meisner at New York's Neighborhood Playhouse School. He provides a plethora of practical, thorough, realistic advice in 41 bite-size chapters organized into five parts. His goal is to provide experiences that will help actors find truth and depth in their characters at all times, and to offer useful information about scene work and rehearsal processes for beginning to intermediate actors. He breaks down the salient points about each element of acting with examples and exercises including stage versus film acting, and how stamina and luck play a part in actor's lives. Part 1, "Warming Up," is foundational yet goes beyond other texts for beginning actors by including activities based on animal and life studies for character development. In part 2, "Scene Work," Ruscio emphasizes emotional truth and the importance of finding the spine--or main force--driving the character and the play. Throughout, he shares fascinating, humorous, and inspirational anecdotes from his experiences working with actors and directors ranging from Laurence Olivier to Matt Damon. Summing Up: Highly recommended.' J. Tomalin, CHOICE About the Author Al Ruscio graduated from the famed Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre and has been teaching acting for five decades. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Screen Actors Guild and is a current voting member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.