

monologues: a hint sheet

They are simply one moment in time. A glimpse into the the thoughts and world of a character.

Below are some questions/thoughts/ideas you should be searching for or asking yourself when looking at the breakdown of creation of a monologue and as such a character.

1. Who are you? What is your place within this story?
2. Who are you talking to? (Yourself? A friend, an enemy?)
3. What do you think about the person you are talking to? Do you hate them? Love them? Secretly want to BE them?
4. What do you think they think of you?
5. Where are you? Where is this taking place? How does the environment effect what is happening in this scene? To your character?
6. What has just happened? We are looking at a moment in time that you are presenting to us out of context – we may not know what is going on – but you need to know exactly – this way we trust what you are saying and believe that this moment exists within a grater world.
7. What will happen after? You have to imagine the next step/move, how does life go on after this moment?
8. Where are you lying? We all lie. All the time. Figure out when your character does and what about.
9. What do you want? Within this scene? Monologue? In life? What do they want right now and what do they want in the future – we are all driven consciously of subconsciously by our wants and needs – when you know what they want you can figure out how they might go about the get what they want
- 10.DO they get what they want?? Do they succeed? Win? Or does someone else?
- 11.Look for the opposites. If you are doing a dramatic piece, look for the comedy. And vice versa – in a comedy look for the tragedy. No one is ever stuck in one genre their entire life.
- 12.What is at stake? What does your character have to lose? If you have created a monologue without stakes then start again – we need to feel like the character has something to lose or gain for us to care about them.
- 13.Don't try to put every human emotion in the monologue – remember it's a single moment in time – find what drives the character and stick to that.
- 14.That being said – look for the change – does your character learn something new? Reveal something? Has something shifted in the story by the end of the monologue? This is linked to what is at stake.
- 15.Why should we care? Do you like the monologue/ DO you feel some connection to it? Because if you don't – we won't.