

contemporary comedic monologue

Contemporary Comedic Monologue

A contemporary comedic monologue is a powerful performance tool used by comedians, actors, and performers to showcase their wit, humor, and observational skills. Unlike traditional monologues, which often focus on dramatic storytelling, contemporary comedic monologues are designed to entertain, provoke thought, and connect with modern audiences through humor that resonates with current societal trends, cultural nuances, and everyday life experiences. These monologues are frequently utilized in auditions, comedy specials, theatre performances, and as part of stand-up routines, offering performers an opportunity to demonstrate their comedic timing, delivery, and originality.

Understanding the Essence of Contemporary Comedic Monologue

Defining Features of a Contemporary Comedic Monologue

A contemporary comedic monologue typically possesses several defining features:

- **Relevance:** Reflects current societal issues, pop culture, or everyday life.
- **Relatability:** Connects with audiences through shared experiences or common frustrations.
- **Humor Style:** Incorporates a variety of comedic techniques such as satire, sarcasm, parody, or observational humor.
- **Conciseness:** Usually concise yet impactful, often lasting between 1 to 3 minutes.
- **Tone:** Maintains a light-hearted, engaging, and lively tone that invites laughter.

The Evolution of Comedic Monologues

Historically, comedic monologues have evolved from classical comedic plays to modern stand-up routines. Key milestones include:

- **Ancient Greece:** Early comedic performances by playwrights like Aristophanes.
- **Shakespearean Comedy:** Monologues that combined humor with dramatic storytelling.
- **20th Century:** Rise of stand-up comedy with pioneers like George Carlin and Richard Pryor.
- **Contemporary Era:** Integration of social commentary, personal storytelling, and multimedia elements.

Components of a Successful Contemporary Comedic Monologue

1. Strong Opening

Captures attention immediately and sets the tone. Examples include humorous anecdotes, witty observations, or surprising statements.

2. Relatable Content

Topics that resonate with the audience's experiences, such as technology mishaps, social media culture, dating woes, or family dynamics.

3. Sharp Timing and Delivery

Comedic timing is crucial. Pauses, intonation, and physical gestures enhance humor and keep the audience engaged.

4. Unique Perspective

Offering a fresh take or an unexpected twist on common topics makes the monologue stand out.

5. Memorable Closing

Ends on a high note, often with a punchline or a humorous call-back.

Popular Themes in Contemporary Comedic Monologues

1. Technology and Social Media

Humor about the influence of smartphones, social networks, and digital culture:

- Overuse of selfies
- Endless scrolling
- Online dating mishaps

2. Modern Relationships and Dating

Satirizing dating apps, ghosting, or relationship expectations.

3. Work and Office Culture

Jokes about remote work, Zoom meetings, and corporate jargon.

4. Family and Parenting

Humorous takes on parenting struggles, sibling rivalry, or in-laws.

5. Identity and Societal Norms

Observations on cultural diversity, gender roles, and social justice movements.

Writing a Contemporary Comedic Monologue: Step-by-Step Guide

Step 1: Choose a Relevant Topic

Identify a subject that is current, relatable, and rich in comedic potential.

Step 2: Develop a Personal Angle

Incorporate personal experiences or unique perspectives to add authenticity.

Step 3: Craft the Joke Structure

Use setups, punchlines, and callbacks to build humor.

Step 4: Incorporate Observational Humor

Highlight absurdities and contradictions in everyday life.

Step 5: Edit and Refine

Ensure clarity, timing, and punch strength. Cut unnecessary parts for conciseness.

Step 6: Practice Delivery

Work on tone, pauses, gestures, and facial expressions to maximize comedic impact.

Examples of Contemporary Comedic Monologues

Example 1: The Perils of Social Media

"Ever notice how everyone's life looks perfect on Instagram? I mean, I post a picture of my salad, and suddenly I'm a food influencer. Meanwhile, my real life is just me trying to find my keys for the third time today. Social media has turned everyone into amateur philosophers—'Look at my avocado toast, and here's my deep thoughts about life.' Honestly, I think we're all just one viral meme away from losing our minds."

Example 2: Tech Frustrations

"I swear, my smartphone is smarter than me. It updates itself—without asking—and then I spend an hour trying to figure out what all the new icons mean. Yesterday, my phone suggested I 'Take a deep breath,' probably because I was scowling at the screen. Now, I just want a phone that listens, not judges."

Impact of Contemporary Comedic Monologue in Performance and Culture

1. Enhancing Performers' Skills

Practicing contemporary comedic monologues helps actors and comedians develop timing, delivery, and the ability to connect with diverse audiences.

2. Reflecting Societal Changes

They serve as a mirror to current societal norms, issues, and cultural shifts, fostering awareness and dialogue.

3. Engaging Modern Audiences

Humor rooted in contemporary themes resonates deeply with audiences, making performances more memorable and impactful.

4. Platform for Personal Expression

Performer's voice and perspective shine through, allowing for authentic storytelling and social commentary.

Tips for Selecting and Performing a Contemporary Comedic Monologue

- Choose topics you're passionate about to ensure genuine delivery.
- Stay updated on current trends and cultural conversations.
- Practice in front of others to gauge audience reactions.
- Record and review performances to refine timing and expressions.
- Maintain authenticity—audiences appreciate sincerity blended with humor.

The Future of Contemporary Comedic Monologue

As society continues to evolve rapidly, so too will the themes and styles of contemporary comedic

monologues. Emerging trends include:

- Integration of multimedia and digital content
- Incorporation of diverse voices and perspectives
- Experimentation with formats, such as hybrid stand-up and theatrical monologues
- Emphasis on social justice and activism through humor

Performers and writers are encouraged to stay adaptable, creative, and socially aware to craft monologues that entertain and enlighten in the years to come.

In conclusion, a contemporary comedic monologue is a dynamic and vital tool in modern performance art. It reflects current societal realities, offers a platform for personal and social commentary, and delights audiences with humor rooted in everyday life. Whether performed on stage, in auditions, or as part of a comedy routine, mastering the art of the contemporary comedic monologue requires understanding current themes, crafting sharp material, and delivering with confidence. By embracing the evolving landscape of humor, performers can connect more deeply with audiences and leave a lasting impression through laughter.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the key elements of a successful contemporary comedic monologue?

A successful contemporary comedic monologue should feature relatable humor, a strong and distinct voice, current cultural references, a clear narrative or character perspective, and timing that maximizes comedic impact.

How can I make my comedic monologue feel more modern and relevant?

Incorporate current events, pop culture references, and everyday situations that resonate with today's audience. Use contemporary language and avoid outdated jokes to keep it fresh and relatable.

What are some common themes in contemporary comedic monologues?

Common themes include social media obsession, dating and relationships, technology mishaps, workplace humor, generational differences, and everyday struggles with a humorous twist.

How long should a contemporary comedic monologue ideally be?

Typically, a comedic monologue should be between 1 to 3 minutes long, allowing for a concise setup and punchline delivery that keeps the audience engaged without dragging.

What are some tips for writing a fresh and original comedic monologue?

Start with personal experiences or observations, use unique angles or perspectives, keep it punchy, and avoid clichés. Testing your material on others can also help refine humor and originality.

How important is delivery in a contemporary comedic monologue?

Delivery is crucial; timing, facial expressions, and vocal inflections can significantly enhance the humor and impact of your monologue, making it feel more natural and engaging.

Can I incorporate improvisation into my contemporary comedic monologue?

While the monologue should be rehearsed, adding spontaneous elements or reacting naturally can make it feel more authentic and lively, especially during live performances.

Are there any popular examples of contemporary comedic monologues I can study?

Yes, performances by comedians like Ali Wong, John Mulaney, and Hannah Gadsby often include monologues that reflect modern themes; studying their work can provide inspiration and insight into current comedic styles.

Additional Resources

Contemporary Comedic Monologue: The Art and Evolution of Modern Stand-Up

Introduction

Contemporary comedic monologue has become a defining feature of modern comedy, serving as both a mirror and a magnifying glass for society's current issues, cultural shifts, and individual perspectives. In an age where social media, instant communication, and global interconnectedness shape public discourse, the comedic monologue has evolved into a versatile and dynamic form of entertainment. It is no longer confined to traditional stand-up stages but has expanded into podcasts, video sketches, and viral clips, making it an essential tool for comedians to connect with audiences. This article explores the contours of contemporary comedic monologue, tracing its origins, examining its stylistic elements, and analyzing how

it reflects and influences today's cultural landscape.

The Evolution of the Comedic Monologue

Historical Roots and Transition to Modernity

The comedic monologue, historically rooted in vaudeville, variety shows, and early stand-up comedy, has always been a solo performance centered around a comic's storytelling prowess. Classic comedians like Bob Hope and Jack Benny popularized the art of delivering punchlines and humorous anecdotes directly to audiences. Over the decades, the format has matured, influenced by cultural shifts, technological advancements, and changing audience preferences.

In the late 20th century, comedians such as George Carlin, Richard Pryor, and Joan Rivers expanded the boundaries of the monologue, infusing social commentary, personal narrative, and observational humor. Their work laid the groundwork for a more reflective and politically aware comedic style, which continues to influence contemporary performers.

Today's comedic monologue retains its core structure but is markedly more diverse in style, voice, and delivery, adapting to the digital age. The rise of social media platforms like YouTube, TikTok, and Twitter has democratized comedy, allowing anyone with a smartphone to craft and share monologues with global audiences. This shift has led to a proliferation of voices and perspectives, making the genre more inclusive and reflective of contemporary society.

Key Milestones in its Modern Evolution

- Digital Platforms: The advent of online video platforms has shifted the distribution of comedic monologues from traditional stages to screens of all sizes.
- Diverse Voices: Greater representation of varied demographics has enriched the themes and styles of monologues.
- Hybrid Formats: Combining monologue elements with storytelling, improv, and multimedia enhances engagement.
- Cultural Responsiveness: Monologues increasingly serve as tools for social critique, activism, and cultural commentary.

Stylistic Elements of Contemporary Comedic Monologue

Content and Themes

Contemporary comedic monologues are marked by their topicality and relevance. They often address

pressing social issues, political climates, and everyday life observations. Some common themes include:

- Politics and Current Events: Satirizing political figures, policies, and social movements.
- Identity and Diversity: Exploring race, gender, sexuality, and cultural identity with humor that fosters dialogue.
- Technology and Social Media: Commenting on internet culture, memes, and digital behaviors.
- Personal Anecdotes: Sharing relatable stories that connect on an emotional level, often highlighting universal experiences.

Tone and Style

The tone varies widely—from sharp satire and dark humor to light-hearted observational comedy. The stylistic approach depends on the comedian's voice, but some common traits include:

- Authenticity: Genuine voice and personal perspective resonate with audiences.
- Conciseness: Given the short attention spans on digital platforms, effective monologues are often succinct yet impactful.
- Repartee and Improvisation: Incorporating spontaneous elements to maintain freshness and engagement.
- Visual and Multimedia Elements: Using props, video clips, or digital effects to enhance delivery.

Delivery Techniques

Effective delivery is crucial in making a comedic monologue impactful. Modern comedians employ:

- Timing and Pacing: Balancing speed to maximize punchlines and pauses for emphasis.
- Expressive Gestures: Using body language to complement verbal humor.
- Voice Modulation: Varying pitch and tone to highlight punchlines or underline sarcasm.
- Audience Interaction: Engaging with live or virtual audiences for immediacy.

The Role of the Contemporary Comedic Monologue in Society

Reflecting Societal Issues

In today's climate, comedy has become a vital forum for social reflection. Monologists often serve as cultural commentators, using humor to critique politics, challenge stereotypes, and highlight social injustices. For instance:

- Satirical monologues on late-night shows dissect political scandals.
- Viral social media monologues address topics like mental health, climate change, and social inequality.
- Personal stories shed light on marginalized voices, fostering empathy and understanding.

Influencing Public Discourse

Beyond reflection, comedic monologues influence public opinion and discourse. Their reach can sway perceptions, shape narratives, and even mobilize audiences for social change. Humor has the power to disarm defensiveness, making difficult conversations more approachable.

Commercial and Cultural Impact

The commercial success of comedic monologues has led to:

- Successful specials on streaming platforms.
- Viral clips influencing mainstream media.
- The rise of “comedy influencers” who blend humor with activism.

This dual role of entertainment and engagement ensures that contemporary comedic monologues are both culturally significant and commercially viable.

Challenges and Ethical Considerations

Line Between Humor and Offense

One of the critical issues facing contemporary comedians is navigating the fine line between humor and offense. The cultural climate’s sensitivity, amplified by social media, demands that performers be aware of their impact.

Representation and Stereotyping

Ensuring diverse representation without relying on stereotypes is a constant challenge. Authenticity and respect are crucial to avoid perpetuating harmful narratives.

Responsibility and Accountability

Comedians wield significant influence; thus, they bear responsibility for the messages they disseminate. The rise of cancel culture and social backlash highlights the importance of thoughtful, conscious comedy.

Future Directions in Contemporary Comedic Monologue

Integration of Technology

Emerging technologies such as augmented reality, virtual reality, and AI could revolutionize how monologues are created and experienced, offering immersive and interactive comedy.

Globalization and Cross-Cultural Humor

As audiences become more connected globally, comedians will increasingly craft monologues that resonate across cultures, blending diverse humor styles and themes.

Inclusivity and Representation

The future of contemporary comedic monologue will likely see even greater emphasis on inclusivity, amplifying marginalized voices and stories.

Hybrid Formats and Innovation

Expect continued experimentation with formats—combining monologue with documentary-style storytelling, music, or digital art to enrich the comedic experience.

Conclusion

Contemporary comedic monologue stands at a crossroads of tradition and innovation. Its evolution reflects broader societal changes, technological advancements, and shifting cultural sensibilities. As a vital form of entertainment and social commentary, it continues to adapt, challenge, and inspire audiences worldwide. Whether delivered on a late-night stage, a viral TikTok clip, or a podcast episode, the modern comedic monologue remains a powerful tool for laughter, reflection, and connection in an ever-changing world.

Contemporary Comedic Monologue

contemporary comedic monologue: The Book of Monologues and Revelations Nick Koroyanis, 2007 This is a unique collection of original contemporary dramatic and comedic monologues for all types of actors. Along with tips and suggestions on how to audition effectively, these true-to-life creative performance monologues cover a wide range of character theatrical circumstances in both the language and subtext that will get you cast.

contemporary comedic monologue: *Teen Girls' Comedic Monologues That Are Actually Funny* Alisha Gaddis, 2015-12-01 This cutting-edge, incredibly hysterical monologue book is specifically for teen girls who need the extra bang to land the perfect comedic role. *Teen Girls' Comedic Monologues That Are Actually Funny* features monologues by writers and comics who have written and/or performed for Comedy Central, Backstage magazine, NBC, Huffington Post, The Onion, Second City, E!, and many more. This book is the answer to the comedic monologue needs of teen girls everywhere!

contemporary comedic monologue: Men's Comedic Monologues That Are Actually Funny

Alisha Gaddis, 2015-06-01 (Applause Acting Series). Never before has a monologue book been written completely by people who are actually funny for a living! This incredibly hysterical, cutting-edge collection of monologues will give an actor the extra bang he needs to land the perfect comedic role. *Men's Comedic Monologues That Are Actually Funny* features monologues by writers and comics who have written for and/or performed on Saturday Night Live , The Tonight Show , Last Comic Standing , E! Entertainment, Comedy Central Stage, and many, many more. This book is the answer to the comedic monologue needs of male actors everywhere!

contemporary comedic monologue: *Teen Boys' Comedic Monologues That Are Actually Funny* Alisha Gaddis, 2015-06-01 (Applause Acting Series). You wanna be funny for your audition? This book of monologues, written by people who are actually funny for a living, has your back. This incredibly hysterical, cutting-edge monologue book will give the teen actor the extra bang he needs to land the perfect comedic role! *Teen Boys' Comedic Monologues That Are Actually Funny* features monologues by writers and comics who have written for and/or performed on Saturday Night Live , The Tonight Show , Last Comic Standing , E! Entertainment, Comedy Central Stage, and many, many more. This book is the answer to the comedic monologue needs of teen actors everywhere!

contemporary comedic monologue: *LGBTQ Comedic Monologues That Are Actually Funny* Alisha Gaddis, 2016-08-01 (Applause Acting Series). The first and only book of its kind, this cutting-edge and incredibly hysterical monologue book is specifically for actors auditioning for LGBTQ roles. *LGBTQ Comedic Monologues That Are Actually Funny* features works by LGBT writers and comics (and their allies) who have written and/or performed for Comedy Central, Backstage magazine, NBC, the Huffington Post , the Onion , Second City, E!, and many more. This collection is the go-to source for the comedic monologue needs of actors seeking LGBT material, as well as a paean to LGBT characters and artists.

contemporary comedic monologue: *Kids' Comedic Monologues That Are Actually Funny* Alisha Gaddis, 2016-04-01 (Applause Acting Series). This book is the answer to the comedic monologue needs of kid actors and their parents everywhere. *Kids' Comedic Monologues That Are Actually Funny* is specifically geared for children ages 5-12. Divided into boy, girl, and gender neutral categories, every piece is guaranteed to be clean, hilariously funny, easy to memorize, and a joy for young actors to perform. It features monologues by writers and comics who have written for or performed on Ellen , Saturday Night Live , The Tonight Show , Last Comic Standing , Comedy Central Stage, and many more.

contemporary comedic monologue: *Contemporary Monologues for Twentysomethings* Jessica Bashline, 2023-11-22 The theater of the 21st century, in many ways, is expanding to require new muscles of its actors, and so should their monologue choices. *Contemporary Monologues for Twentysomethings* is a compilation of monologues for actors ages 15 to 30, incorporating characters from a variety of backgrounds with different stories to tell, giving you the chance to explore those who are close to you and those who may come from someplace else. These monologues are compiled in order of length, with the shortest coming in a little under a minute and the longer pieces running closer to four minutes. All from plays written between 2000 and 2016, the monologues in this book are useful both for exploration in a classroom setting as well as for auditions. Jessica Bashline, adjunct professor of acting at New York University, has assembled a comprehensive collection, featuring work written by Neil LaBute, Sarah Ruhl, Zach Braff, Naomi Iizuka, and many more. Every playwright in this book is currently writing. Some of these plays have been produced on Broadway and some in tiny theaters in New York, Minneapolis, San Diego, or other cities around the country. This book offers a chance for emerging actors to explore work by playwrights, both emerging and established, that is truly contemporary.

contemporary comedic monologue: *Best Contemporary Monologues for Kids Ages 7-15* Lawrence Harbison, 2000-01-01 Inside these pages, aspiring young performers will find 75 challenging monologues just right for kids. All of the pieces are about subjects appropriate for production in schools - much of it "serious and challenging" - which will interest child performers without offending administrators, teachers, or parents. Some are comical, some are dramatic, and

some are seriocomic (a little bit of both). Most of the monologues are from plays, and some are original pieces written especially for this book. Despite the listed age of each character, these monologues can all be performed by kids of any age. The collection features wonderful monologues by some of our finest playwrights, such as Don Nigro, Cassandra Lewis, Reina Hardy, Kayla Cagan, Jenny Lyn Bader, Eric Coble, Glenn Alterman, Constance Congdon, and Barbara Dana. It also highlights exciting up-and-comers, such as Sharon Goldner, Gabriel David, Deanna Alisa Ableser, Martha Patterson, David Eliet, Connie Schindewolf, Mark Lambeck, and Phoebe Farmer.

contemporary comedic monologue: Great Monologues Glenn Alterman, 2023-02-21 A must-have resource for aspiring actors: both monologues to audition with and a step-by-step guide on the best monologue audition preparation! Great Monologues: And How to Give Winning Auditions is primarily for actors looking for excellent acting monologues for their monologue auditions. There are original monologues written specifically for auditions, as well as monologues from award-winning playwright Glenn Alterman's plays. There are comedic, dramatic, and serio-comedic monologues for all audition calls. Great Monologues also offers a step-by-step process to prepare for all monologue auditions. The monologues offered run from one minute to five minutes, thus covering all audition times. There are also a number of in-depth interviews with major casting directors, directors, and theatre company artistic directors. If you are an aspiring actor in need of an audition monologue, or want the best advice on how to properly audition with a monologue, Great Monologues: And How to Give Winning Auditions is a must-have in your collection! Allworth Press, an imprint of Skyhorse Publishing, publishes a broad range of books on the visual and performing arts, with emphasis on the business of art. Our titles cover subjects such as graphic design, theater, branding, fine art, photography, interior design, writing, acting, film, how to start careers, business and legal forms, business practices, and more. While we don't aspire to publish a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are deeply committed to quality books that help creative professionals succeed and thrive. We often publish in areas overlooked by other publishers and welcome the author whose expertise can help our audience of readers.

contemporary comedic monologue: The Ultimate Scene and Monologue Sourcebook, Updated and Expanded Edition Ed Hooks, 2010-05-19 All actors and acting teachers need The Ultimate Scene and Monologue Sourcebook, the invaluable guide to finding just the right piece for every audition. The unique format of the book is ideal for acting teachers who want their students to understand each monologue in context. This remarkable book describes the characters, action, and mood for more than 1,000 scenes in over 300 plays. Using these guidelines, the actor can quickly pinpoint the perfect monologue, then find the text in the Samuel French or Dramatist Play Service edition of the play. Newly revised and expanded, the book includes the author's own assessment of each monologue.

contemporary comedic monologue: The Professional Actor's Handbook Julio Agustin, 2023-11-13 While there are many books that attempt to teach people how to act, there are few that show aspiring actors what it takes to succeed as a working professional. The Professional Actor's Handbook: From Casting Call to Curtain Call provides struggling artists—stage and screen actors, dancers, singers—with strategies that will help them successfully negotiate every stage of their careers. This second edition provides vital updates to reflect the current industry: Post-pandemic shifts in the industry Inclusive language Additional resources specific to various affinity groups Video auditions and self-tapes, including strategies for online auditions Julio Agustin and Kathleen Potts address a myriad of topics such as resumes, headshots, rep books, audition nerves, and marketing plans. Other strategies address how to network, how to finance your early career, and even how to organize a home studio. Featuring sample resumes, insights from industry experts, and a new chapter by audition coach Casey Miko on how to "Generate an Extraordinary Video Submission," this book offers invaluable industry guidance. Along with audition manuals and repertoire binders, The Professional Actor's Handbook is a vital reference that belongs on every actor's bookshelf, from recent college graduates to seasoned professionals.

contemporary comedic monologue: Contemporary Scenes for Twentysomethings Jessica

Bashline, 2024-01-11 The theater of the 21st century, in many ways, is expanding to require new muscles of its actors, and so should their scene choices. Today, amid flourishing new play resources, it can be difficult to nail down contemporary scenes for two people. These scenes, all culled from plays written between 2000 and 2016, are useful to actors between the ages of 15 and 30. They range from about two to seven minutes' running time – appropriate for different classroom explorations – and are grouped by scenes for two males, two females, and one male and one female. Contemporary Scenes for Twentysomethings offers the opportunity for emerging actors to explore work by playwrights, both emerging and established, that is truly contemporary. Jessica Bashline, adjunct professor of acting at New York University, has assembled a comprehensive collection, featuring work written by Samuel D. Hunter, Liz Duffy Adams, Timothy Mason, Nina Raine, and many more. Every playwright in this book is currently writing. The characters included in this compilation come from a variety of backgrounds with different stories to tell, giving you the chance to explore those who are close to you and those who may come from someplace else. When perusing this book, look for scenes that instantly draw you. There is more than enough material to find something that speaks to you, and your passion for a piece will strengthen your final performance!

contemporary comedic monologue: The Contemporary American Monologue Eddie Paterson, 2015-12-17 Talk-show confessions, online rants, stand-up routines, inspirational speeches, banal reflections and calls to arms: we live in an age of solo voices demanding to be heard. In The Contemporary American Monologue Eddie Paterson looks at the pioneering work of US artists Spalding Gray, Laurie Anderson, Anna Deavere Smith and Karen Finley, and the development of solo performance in the US as a method of cultural and political critique. Ironic confession, post-punk poetry, investigations of race and violence, and subversive polemic, this book reveals the link between the rise of radical monologue in the late 20th century and history of speechmaking, politics, civil rights, individual freedom and the American Dream in the United States. It shows how US artists are speaking back to the cultural, political and economic forces that shape the world. Eddie Paterson traces the importance of the monologue in Shakespeare, Brecht, Beckett, Chekov, Pinter, O'Neill and Williams, before offering a comprehensive analysis of several of the most influential and innovative American practitioners of monologue performance. The Contemporary American Monologue constitutes the first book-length account of US monologists that links the tradition of oratory and speechmaking in the colony to the appearance of solo performance as a distinctly American phenomenon.

contemporary comedic monologue: Best Monologues from The Best American Short Plays, Volume Three William W. Demastes, 2015-04-01 (Best American Short Plays). Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me. Really? Words can break spirits, destroy confidence. They can also build hope and incite great acts of heroism. Playwrights know this, and so do theater audiences. Otherwise, why go? Words matter and carry clout every bit as dangerous as a hammer or crowbar. This, too, playwrights know. The monologues in this volume are full of such blows, striking at our imaginations and our memories, generating responses such as joyful laughter or chilling surprise. Others squeeze us into worlds we've never experienced, or perhaps experienced at the furthest edges of memory and recollection. Still others may help us alter the way we see certain things, people, or beliefs. Best Monologues from The Best American Short Plays, Volume Three is a collection of monologues drawn from the popular Best American Short Plays series, an archive of works from many of the best playwrights active today. Long or short, serious or not, excerpts or entireties, this collection abounds in speech acts that may trigger physical reactions and almost certainly will transform an attitude or two, drawing out lost memories, creating new ones, and definitely entertaining, engaging, amusing us all along the way.

contemporary comedic monologue: Act Like It's Your Business Jonathan Flom, 2013-07-18 Many actors treat their profession as a purely artistic endeavor, rarely conceding that there is more to making a living than simply showing up on stage or in front of a camera. By refusing to seriously acknowledge that self-promotion is vital to their livelihoods, many performers can get quickly discouraged by the vicious circle of audition and rejection. However, with a little foresight and

planning, actors can learn how to become their own best advocates for a career in the business of show. In *Act Like It's Your Business: Branding and Marketing Strategies for Actors*, Jonathan Flom helps actors and others in the arts understand the power of branding. This guide walks the reader through the process of creating a personal brand for a small business and then marketing that brand and broadcasting it through every step of the process—from choosing clothing, arranging headshots, and designing resumes to selecting a repertoire, building a website, obtaining business cards, and networking. Flom also offers advice on such real-world issues as goal-setting, finances, contracts, and day jobs and provides insight and guidance on how to approach agents, auditions, and casting directors. A book of empowerment meant to shift the balance of control to actors themselves, *Act Like It's Your Business* is aimed at professional performers as well as students who are getting ready to transition from college to career. Structured logically and step by step, this accessible guide will become the standard for nearly anyone hoping to build an enduring career in the performing arts.

contemporary comedic monologue: The Monologue Audition Karen Kohlhaas, 2000-08 All the elements of preparing a monologue audition - script analysis, staging, voice, timing, gesture, movement and self-presentation skills - are thoroughly explored here. The goal of the book, as Ms. Kohlhaas states in her Introduction, is not only to help you prepare for auditions, but to make working on monologues a regular and enjoyable part of your acting life. As you follow the author along the path she charts, you are not only learning to rehearse monologues effectively, you are learning to turn auditions into exciting ways to grow and challenge yourself as an actor.--BOOK JACKET.

contemporary comedic monologue: Get the Callback Jonathan Flom, 2016-05-02 All great auditions require preparation and practice, but what's the secret to securing a callback? What are the best ways to prepare for that pivotal moment? And once you're in front of the casting director, what does it take to make the most out of your moment in the spotlight? In this second edition of *Get the Callback: The Art of Auditioning for Musical Theatre*, Jonathan Flom provides practical advice on the many facets of preparation, including selection of songs and monologues to suit your voice and the audition, organizing and arranging your music, working with the accompanist, and presenting yourself to the casting team. The book gives a detailed description of the actual audition performance and even offers advice on how non-dancers can survive a dance audition. In addition to extensively revised chapters on the audition process and how to build a repertoire book, this guide also features updated chapters on headshots, resumes, and cover letters; voice training techniques from Matthew Edward; advice from musical director Joey Chancey; and a foreword by casting director Joy Dewing. Aimed at professionals as well as young artists, this second edition of *Get the Callback* is a must-have for both seasoned and aspiring musical theatre performers.

contemporary comedic monologue: Acting for Young Actors Mary Lou Belli, Dinah Lenney, 2006-08-01 Do you know a teen that's been bitten by the acting bug? Here's just the book they need! *Acting for Young Actors*, aimed at teens and tweens, lets kids hone their skills and develop their craft. It begins with the five W's: WHO am I? WHAT do I want? WHY do I want it? WHERE am I? WHEN does this event take place? Sounds basic - but many young child actors are told simply to get up there and act. This book explores each of these questions, using helpful exercises to allow young actors to work through problems of character identity and motivation. With comprehensive chapters on auditioning, rehearsal, and improvisation, plus a primer on how young actors can break into film, theater, and television, *Acting for Young Actors* is every kid's ticket to the big time.

contemporary comedic monologue: Modern American Drama: Playwriting in the 1990s Sharon Friedman, Cheryl Black, 2019-11-14 The *Decades of Modern American Playwriting* series provides a comprehensive survey and study of the theatre produced in each decade from the 1930s to 2009 in eight volumes. Each volume equips readers with a detailed understanding of the context from which work emerged: an introduction considers life in the decade with a focus on domestic life and conditions, social changes, culture, media, technology, industry and political events; while a chapter on the theatre of the decade offers a wide-ranging and thorough survey of theatres, companies, dramatists, new movements and developments in response to the economic and political

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