

# Managing, Teaching, and Keeping Your Actors Alive

## Getting Actors

### Business cards for hiring

- Have 1,000 printed (an invitation to auditions)
- Glossy full color (reflecting your style of show)
- Go to festivals, concerts, comic cons the mall hand them to every interesting person you see
- Get booths at faires festivals and art shows (make up is an art)
- Renaissance festivals

### Facebook for hiring

- 2 free tickets if actor shares the haunts hiring message three times
- Freshen your message to reach several types of person
- Shares are they key- likes mean nothing- get people to share your messages so more people get reached
- Post character pictures! Your actors in costumes!
- Do photoshoots once a month –that becomes a “thing”

### Youtube videos

- If your haunt is good then a youtube video of characters
- Statesville prison (zombie army)
- Show fun and fellowship- make them want to belong

### Actor types

Their motivations should match your needs

### Recruitment theory

#### Activity x quality x target market

- Are we doing enough activity?
- Is that activity of the right quality?
- Are we doing it with the right people?
  
- Acceptance is key
- Avoid cliques
- Casting by body type
- Know what you want for each role

### Why do we haunt act?

- To be someone else
- To feel powerful
- A love of costumes
- Love of performance
- To belong to a group
- Our girlfriends are doing it (and vise versa)

If you can address the people who have these needs, then they will act for you and act well

## **Teaching actors**

Training session structure

Warm up exercises

Evaluation exercises

Can they follow directions?

Are they funny or trying to be?

(Scares list) Having a technique to pull out of the bag when nothing else worked, or to escalate the fear of a guest is priceless. The days of the haunt one trick pony are over.

Stalking

statue scare

mind invasion

curtain startle

sliding

drop panel

door startle

wall bang

disembodied lies

name chant

looming

camo scare

lurking

*puff*

2 second suspense

overhead startle

Stretch ball

Rope trick

Knife attack

Share my stuff

Excited chatter

reach throughs

pop outs

foot plant

mock charge

wall slap

spider startle

underglide

foot grab

hand flash

Bark behind

Clacker gloves

Shaker can

Slap stick

curtain attack

cloth/plastic

(Work through an actor  
training session worksheet

## **Managing actors**

**Change your thinking towards inclusion**

**Work towards being a team, continually remind them to back up and look at the house as a whole, not just their tiny portion**

**Destroy rumors by going to the source and eliminate people who cause drama-your show will be better for it.**

**Keys to success**

**Be a Leader/give them a leader-**

**whoever is training them should be someone who they respect.**

**Know their name-**

**I know you have a ton of actors, and many of them are not there all the time. If you cannot invest enough in them to learn their name then how much will they be willing to invest for you?**

**Focus their Training-**

**We have a very short time to train them, and they have a short attention span.**

**Give them confidence-**

**we are basically sending them into battle. No one touches, but the attacks and strategy occur in just the same way.**

**Continually aim them at the customer-**

**actors enjoy scaring people so much that they start thinking that they are at the haunt for their pleasure. It is always healthy to remind them that the customer is the reason they are there.**

**Meeting structure**

**Positive –negative- positive when speaking**

**Awards-**

**fright of the night/ the Os-scare**

**walk your show as a customer at LEAST once an hour**

**Prizes can be gained by ticket trades with local restaurants/businesses**

**Rally/unification-**  
Haka/ howl/ braveheart

**End on a positive!**

## **Actor maintenance**

### **Personable responsibility**

Give them the knowledge that they have the power to make the haunt an awesome place.

They can help with

Costume

Make-up

Taking care of themselves (gig bag)

Drama free workplace! (I have a sign- 15 days since our last drama)

### **Safety**

Be reactionary to security calls

Make sure they know where a radio is

Brief them on procedure

Have fire drills

Have power outage drills

LED security system

Sign in and sign out

### **Continued education-**

Scare tip of the night

Work on problem areas

Path blocking

Stalking

Timing

### **Care and feeding**

The cast feeds off of the energy of the leader-

You need to control your energy

Looking good equals pride-

give them good costumes

Take character pictures and put them on Face book

Show off your actors

### **A Facebookgroup**

Take them places!

Horror movies

**Karaoke**  
**Build days**  
**Specific tasks**  
**Goal of the day is team building**

**Keep them informed of the vision**  
**Share successes with them**  
**Use F.E.A.R.**  
**And F.I.R.E.D.**