



Respect for Acting

Uta Hagen , Haskel Frankel

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"This fascinating and detailed book about acting is Miss Hagen's credo, the accumulated wisdom of her years spent in intimate communion with her art. It is at once the voicing of her exacting standards for herself and those she [taught], and an explanation of the means to the end."

--Publishers Weekly

"Hagen adds to the large corpus of titles on acting with vivid dicta drawn from experience, skill, and a sense of personal and professional worth. Her principal asset in this treatment is her truly significant imagination. Her 'object exercises' display a wealth of detail with which to stimulate the student preparing a scene for presentation."

--Library Journal

"Uta Hagen's *Respect for Acting* . . . is a relatively small book. But within it, Miss Hagen tells the young actor about as much as can be conveyed in print of his craft."

--Los Angeles Times

"There are almost no American actors uninfluenced by Uta Hagen."

--Fritz Weaver

"This is a textbook for aspiring actors, but working thespians can profit much by it. Anyone with just a casual interest in the theater should also enjoy its behind-the-scenes flavor."

--King Features Syndicate

Respect for Acting Details

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From Reader Review Respect for Acting for online ebook

Magdalena Golden says

This is only the second book on acting I have read so far, the first one being Stanislavski's *An Actor Prepares*, so naturally I've been comparing the two a lot while reading. Although Uta Hagen's approach is definitely in line with Stanislavski's method, the book itself is very different. I love how she stresses the craft part of acting. Not that Stanislavski's book doesn't cover it as well, but in much less detail and I found "Respect for acting" to have a highly practical and no-nonsense feel to it, which I greatly enjoyed.

Cassidy says

This book turned the shy dreamer writer into the shy dreamer actor you see today!

Ally Stephens says

The Bible for Actors. My acting teacher was a huge Uta Hagen fan and he gifted me "Respect for Acting." Uta Hagen is simply incredible. The woman knows her stuff. I love every single thing she has to say and think she truly is a work of art. She is an acting goddess and I will always look up to her. Her passion drips through the pages. This is a must read for any aspiring actor, director, theatre lover. Acting is a lot of discipline. Hagen does a great job of explaining techniques to help actors be the best versions of themselves and perform to their fullest potentials.

David Olsen says

In my opinion, to make it short and sweet, this is the best damn book EVER written on acting. Uta = goddess of acting. Her other book is equally as good, and perhaps a bit more polished since it was written later in her life, but this one was the foundation of all her teachings at the HB Studio in NYC. Read it and weep, actors!

E.H. Nolan says

For the actor who is serious about his or her craft, this is a well-written and inspiring self-help book. I categorize it as a self-help book because when an actor works on his craft, he is simultaneously getting to know himself on a new level.

This is not the kind of book that sounds like the author spoke into a tape recorder for an hour. Split into three sections—The Actor, The Exercises, and The Role—Uta Hagen has obviously taken her decades of experience and carefully crafted her wisdom for aspiring actors. She helps her readers prepare mentally, physically, and verbally for their lifelong journey as an Actor. Readers will spend days, if not weeks, absorbing this first section, before moving onto the exercises in section two. In this second section,

depending on the reader's perspective, Hagen either connects with or loses her readers. There are several different types of actors; some might not be drawn to Hagen's scene and character breakdowns. Personally, I was a less analytical actress in my heyday, but I still appreciated Hagen's wisdom and helpful nature.

In the third section, Hagen recommends how to approach a play, role, and scene, if and when you are lucky enough to have landed a part. Again, her approaches and breakdowns may be helpful to some readers, depending on the type of actor, of course. This is an incredibly thorough and wise read, and those who connect with her will be very grateful Ms. Hagen took her decades of experience on Broadway to help the next generation of actors and actresses.

<http://hotoastyrag.weebly.com/respec...>

Angela says

Good basic instructions on acting technique from one of Broadway's leading actresses. Ms. Hagen is noted for her "Nine Questions" exercise in defining one's character. Many of the directors I've worked with assign this exercise as preparation for a role. Reading about the exercise from the source and seeing how Ms. Hagen developed and refined this exercise in her own career is invaluable. I'm sure I'll come back to this book time and time again.

Kate says

A brilliant director I was working with introduced me to this book and it has served as a foundation for my theatrical endeavors ever since. "Respect for Acting," by Uta Hagen is exactly what it sounds like; it teaches respect for acting. Hagen who has graced the Broadway stage and film as a performer, was also an acclaimed acting coach. Some of her former students include; Jack Lemmon, Robert DenNiro, Liza Minelli, Whoopi Goldberg, and Al Pacino. Along with brilliant credentials, Hagen provides acting exercises and examples throughout the book to validate her method. "When the exercise has succeeded, you may feel that you've been as busy as a great cook who has prepared a gourmet meal. But then you will have the right to announce to your peers or to your teacher, 'Bon appetit, this is Julia Child!'" (Hagen 133). The language she uses is easy to comprehend but she also doesn't dumb down the art of acting. She challenges readers, while still communicating the ideas in ways they can understand, using the everyday experiences of life to illustrate her points. The book is divided into three parts and each part is broken down into chapters that explore different aspects of acting and techniques are provided to develop each aspect. What I enjoy the most about this book is Hagen's mission. Her book was written to teach performers to become true artists, not stars. While some acting methods are nothing but ego-trips, "Respect for Acting," recaptures not only the idea of acting as an art, but also as a passion.

Amanda says

Uta Hagen has some good advice. I can't say this was a page-turner, but if you're in the craft, it's got some good bits of insight.

Rachel says

Really interesting take on the process of acting--I will definitely have to reread, it was a pretty information heavy book.

Scott says

So what did I think of this book? It was an interesting read. Uta clearly has some brilliant ideas on acting. But I found the book dated and hard to relate to. Uta Hagen was born in 1919. She was most famous for *The Seagull*, which she did in 1938, *A Streetcar Named Desire* in 1947 and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* in 1962. For young people today she could be a contemporary of Shakespeare. Her writing style is old and dated. Don't get me wrong, my favorite book was written in 1961 and is as compelling today as when it was written. Steinbeck is like that.

Jonathan Lien Horn says

A readable, well-organized guidebook. A wee bit pretentious, but I sure want to work hard now!

Shannon Baxter says

This is a great book for those serious about acting. Uta Hagen offers an in-depth perspective on how to deepen the connection between the actor and the stage, other actors, and their craft. The book includes exercises the actor can perform on their own or with others.

Elena Rogers says

The best book on acting that I, at least, have read. Uta Hagen is funny, accessible, and brilliant, and it's great to have an acting book that blends exercises with philosophy. Would highly recommend to anyone interested in the performing arts, no matter their level of involvement.

Beth says

The "method" explained in understandable terms by a great acting teacher. She was my teacher and when I teach, I use this book as an important resource. If you are even considering being an actor, you should read this.

Shawn Mcdowell says

Respect for acting

This is a wonderful book on acting that I have read so far and I am glad that I did as it has helped me in my magic career. I highly recommend that anyone who is looking to improve their performance than this book is for you.
