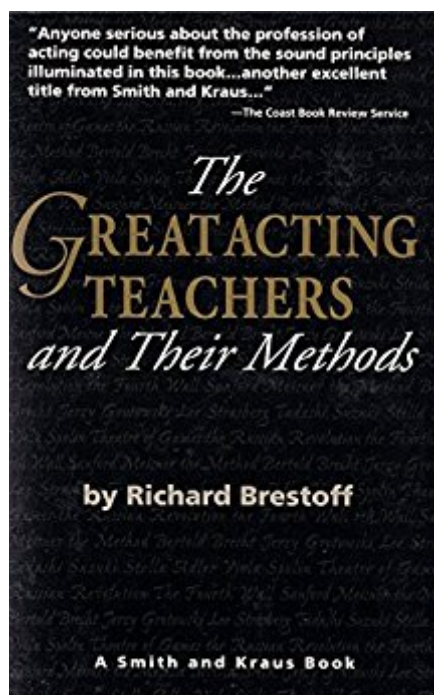


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# Great Acting Teachers And Their Methods



## Synopsis

With clarity and insight, Richard Brestoff introduces the great acting teachers, explaining their techniques and how they are applied today. Beginning with Quintilian and Delsarre he guides us to the present with an inside look at what is currently being taught in the major acting schools and private acting studios; The Actor's Studio, Yale University, NYU, Juillard and many more are visited. Great Acting Teachers and Their Methods will help you understand the most important ideas about acting, where they originated and how they are used in training programs today. Some of the teachers focused on are Stella Adler, Sanford Meisner, Lee Strasberg, Brecht, Stanislavsky, and Suzuki.

## Book Information

File Size: 2170 KB

Print Length: 229 pages

Publisher: Smith and Kraus, Inc. (March 9, 2015)

Publication Date: March 9, 2015

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00UIDP3CE

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #455,541 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #53

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Arts & Photography > Theater > Stagecraft #189 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Arts & Photography > Theater > Acting & Auditioning #353 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > Stagecraft

## Customer Reviews

Anyone interested in a well-written and accessible overview of the evolution and current status of the methods of training actors could not do better than to get this book. Richard Brestoff has clearly done a thorough job of research. He seems to have trained under practitioners of virtually every extant training system, and presents them in a way which is both entertaining and readily understood, even by those with little or no background in theater or film. The final section of the

book, with concise descriptions of many of the available sources of training in the United States, would be of great value to any student who wants to pursue an acting career. It is not easy to present a great deal of solid information and maintain a lively, readable style, but this writer has done it. I suspect that even those with no professional interest in acting would enjoy the book. Professional actors will come away from it with renewed respect for their art and rekindled dedication ! to improving their craft.

I enjoyed every minute of this book. It was hard to put down. I actually have to buy another copy because the person who borrowed it from me swears I gave it to him. Information needed for anyone in the performing arts.

I usually don't write reviews about instruction manuals and "self-help" books, but this book was one that actually, truly, spurred me to sit up, turn on my computer and begin typing out this review u see here. Richard Brestoff has given a very detailed history and elaboration of the different styles of acting, starting with ancient historical methods to the well-known Stanislavsky, to alternate, modern approaches like Artaud, Brecht and Adler. Brestoff, however, uses characters as some form of personae, and loves to change topic sentences quite jarringly, making the narrative quite frustrating to read. However, overall it is clear that he does know his stuff quite well, and though he tries at times (sometimes unsuccessfully, sometimes successfully) to make the concepts more interesting, it is also clear that he should just stick on making his passion for acting shine through his writing. A must-have book for all lovers of theatre, especially if you're a thespian!

I read this book over the summer after reading Stanislavski's *An Actor Prepares* and *Building a Character* while preparing for a rather challenging role. I found this book to be exceptionally written, extremely clear, and entertaining. I found all of the different schools and techniques of acting so interesting that it inspired me to consider majoring in it and possibly going on from there to receive my MFA from the Actor's studio. I especially liked the way that he arranged the book so that one could go back and compare different techniques. Because of this book, I am far more ahead than most people in my IB theatre class and I am able to apply what is going on within myself as I begin building my character and and as i watch my acting coach while she is directing a school play. If anyone is interested in theatre, acting, or just wanting to learn something new, this is definitely the book. If it were possible to give this book ten stars I surely would.

Great actors have more than one way to be great. "The Great Acting Teachers and Their Methods" is a guide to the many educators in acting and how they encourage young actors to great. Drawing from a fine collection of great acting teachers both past and present, he looks at the history of drama teaching and provides the best of what can be perused. "The Great Acting Teachers and Their Methods" is a fine collection and a top resource for drama teachers.

I bought this book for a class and then we never used it. However the professor insisted she was taking directly from the book the exercises we were doing in class. I think if you are looking for some new exercises to try for yourself that this is a good book for you. It is very physical work so do not attempt reading along as you go. Read, then try.

It took me a while to really get into this book. I bought it for the Kindle and have a free app on my iPhone. My acting professor suggested it to me as a good starting place to begin reading books for my senior seminar. Once I plowed through chapter 2 (took me 2 hours) it was a simple and compelling read. It lays out many methods taught by acting teachers and actors themselves over the course of generations and I feel that it will help me to appreciate honing my craft :)

A good read, and worth having if you are looking for an above average overview of its subjects, and I suppose that's all it could be - but if you want to seriously investigate any of those contained here, you'd profit more by a book (and there are many on each) devoted exclusively to that individual.

Enjoyable,

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