

### 30 Quick Things Learned or Relearned!

#### By Touring in *A Christmas Carol* over the last 7 Years.

1. Wash your hands after shaking hands and/or have sanitizer somewhere.
2. It takes 20 minutes to get water into your vocal folds. So drink some water in prep at least 30 minutes before performing the show.
3. Throat Lozenges, always have 2 on you.
4. Shirt Stays are a wonderful invention.
5. Build a rolling cart that holds your set pieces on it. Door sills are everywhere. Things fall off.
6. Wear a UGA hoodie and male gamecock inmates will have something to talk to you.
7. Dress in layers.
8. Really talk to, not at, the audience.
9. Charles Dickens language is as good, at times, to perform as Shakespeare's language.
10. If they enter the room late? Then perform for them too.
11. If they are crossing through your performance space then make them part of the show.
12. If a little child walks up on to the stage then sit him down on the stool and perform for him.
13. Sometimes the most important thing you will do is listen to somebody after the show tell you his story as you pack up and get ready to leave.
14. Fairfax, South Carolina is always very cold, wet, dark and windy on Sunday evenings in December. Always...always!
15. All women audiences are much more attentive and allow you to find more truthfully emotion in your performance. They will soften you up.
16. Male audiences like the preachiness of Dickens and will like your physical comedy.
17. Females like it when you take a good pratfall.
18. 14 year students with no theatre going experience can be your best audiences because they have never seen a one person play where an actor plays all of the parts back and forth very quickly. They may think you are a magician afterwards and will want to know how you learned to do it. Practice and drill is the answer.
19. It's live theatre so it is always different.
20. You begin to hate performing with actual theatre lighting on because you can't see or talk to the audience very well. You want to create eyeball to eyeball connection with them.
21. The five points of focus: 1. To a character 2. To yourself 3. To the audience 4. To a character not there 5. To an unidentified other..... will become your friends.
22. Everyone doesn't like theatre. They will find you annoying! Go away. Remind them that it's only 65 minutes so stick with you? There could be something in it they may like.
23. You will gain a lot skills and confidence as a solo actor and performer. You can command a room buddy. You're the MAN!
24. Don't let # 23 go to your head.
25. Don't shout so much.
26. Smile, be gracious and humble.
27. Charles Dickens' words will grow on you and will mean more to you as time goes on.
28. Every performance space is different so you will have to learn how to make it your home for the time you are there.
29. Be happy.
30. Keep at it! Remember *"It is required of every man that the spirit within him should walk abroad among his fellowmen, and travel far and wide; and if that spirit goes not forth in life, it is condemned to do so after death. It is doomed to wander through the world and witness what it cannot share, but might have shared on earth, and turned to happiness!"*