

# GOTE

To be believable an actor needs to truly study their character. There is a very simple method that an actor can use to do this. It is called the GOTE method. GOTE is a very easy to remember acronym. It stands for Goal, Obstacle, Tactics and Expectation. This is a very basic approach to breaking down a character. Now let's go over each of these objectives.

**Goal** is what the character is going after. It is the whole purpose for the play. The goal kicks off all of the action. The goal is to be persuaded by the character. Now the goal can't be general, it needs to be something very specific. For example a general goal would be "I want to feel fulfilled by marrying someone." A more specific goal would be "I want John to marry me." The goal needs to be very targeted. A good exercise is to imagine you are starving and there is a sandwich just out of your reach. Now try to reach for it. That is how you need to be when going after your goals.

The **obstacle** is what stands in the way of the goal. The obstacle needs to be in direct opposition to the goal. For example if the goal is "I want John to marry me" the obstacle may be "My parents hate John." The character needs to struggle with the obstacle to reach their goal. This is what makes a play interesting and not just 2 people having a conversation about the weather on stage.

**Tactics** are what a character uses to overcome the obstacles and reach the goal. This is where a play gets fun. The tactics make the character real. The tactics a character chooses shows the audience what type of person they are. The tactics can be funny, honorable, deceitful, etc. There can be multiple tactics used by an actor. A good actor will be able to move from tactic to tactic with ease in order to achieve the goal.

**Expectations** give a tone and excitement to the tactics. These are what stop the goals from being too academic and boring. They show what are the characters' excitement and enthusiasm behind their goal.

# GOTE Worksheet

## **Basic information about your character-**

Name:

Gender:

Age (be specific):

Marital status and history:

Education level:

Economic/social status:

## **Goal-**

What do I really want?

When do I want it?

## **Others (Obstacles)-**

From whom (in the play) do I want it?

Who in the play can help me?

Who in the play can hurt me?

Who stands in my way? Why?

What are my deepest fears?

## **Tactics-**

How can I get it?

How (and whom) should I threaten?

How (and whom) should I induce?

## **Expectations-**

Why do I expect to get it?

Why does it excite me?

What will I do when I get it?

You may answer impressionistically or in lists, but answer vividly, not academically.