

Michael Shurtleff

Quotes

*Acting, Character, Dream, Fighting, Thinking, Actors, Attitude, Interesting,
Heart, Opposites, Mean, Drama, Romance, Healthy, Reality, Competition,
Choices, Way, Funny, Pride*

The first step to a better audition is to give up character and use yourself.

~Michael Shurtleff

Creating relationship is the heart of acting. It is basic. It is essential.

~Michael Shurtleff

Conflict is what creates drama. The more conflict actors find, the more interesting the performance.

~Michael Shurtleff

Consistency is the death of good acting.

~Michael Shurtleff

To go into acting is like asking for admission to an insane asylum. Anyone may apply, but only the certifiably insane are admitted.

~Michael Shurtleff

The moral: Don't settle for anything less than the biggest dream for your future. Fight to make the dream come true.

~Michael Shurtleff

Acting in theatre or television or screen is only for the irrecoverably diseased, those so smitten with the need that there is no choice.

~Michael Shurtleff

Every scene is a love scene. The actor should ask the question: 'Where is the love?'

~Michael Shurtleff

An expression of feeling isn't worth anything unless it interferes with what the other actor in the scene wants.

~Michael Shurtleff

Whatever you decide is your motivation in the scene, the opposite of that is also true and should be in it.

~Michael Shurtleff

Every scene you will ever act begins in the middle, and it is up to you, the actor, to provide what comes before.

~Michael Shurtleff

Humor [in a scene] is not jokes. It is that attitude toward being alive without which you would long ago have jumped off the 59th Street Bridge.

~Michael Shurtleff

Take nothing for granted. Make an emotional discovery as often as you can find one in every scene. Ask yourself: What is new?

~Michael Shurtleff

Most actors make themselves unhappy by searching for their sanity, by insisting on their normalcy; it's a grave mistake.

~Michael Shurtleff

Competition [in a scene] is healthy. Competition is life. Yet most actors refuse to acknowledge this. They don't want to compete. They want to get along. And they are therefore not first-rate actors.

~Michael Shurtleff

The actor needs to find out what the basic fight is in every character in every scene.

~Michael Shurtleff

There's only one reason why a character drinks: to seek confrontation. To fight for what they want in ways normally denied them.

~Michael Shurtleff

The life of an actor is a bit easier to take if you admit you're bonkers.

~Michael Shurtleff

Everyone thinks romance is weak. Yet romance is everyone's secret dream-it's why we're alive.

~Michael Shurtleff

That's why there's so little romance in our world now: everyone thinks romance is weak.

~Michael Shurtleff

Humor is an attitude, a survivor's way of looking at life. It's not about telling jokes.

~Michael Shurtleff

If we lived for reality, we'd be dead, every last one of us. Only dreams keep us going.

~Michael Shurtleff

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