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### What is the Silliest Thing You Have Ever Had to Do in the Name of Your Craft ?

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## What is the Silliest Thing You Have Ever Had to Do in the Name of Your Craft ?

By Heather Langone  
JULY 9, 2009



"After a trip to L.A., where everyone told me I was perfect for sitcoms, I decided to embrace 'the funny' and take a standup comedy class. Embracing my inner goof led to working in many comedy clubs and doing comedy on TV. Even though it was scary at first, discovering that side of me was essential to carving out my career. Now seen for silly things all the time, I'm taking it further and learning about clowning. Who knows? Maybe one day I'll wind up in a circus."

—Shara Ashley Zeiger, New York



"As an exercise, each actor had to create a movement and a sound, one after the other in a rhythmic pattern. Since I hadn't played this game before, I was the first one. Not knowing that the end product would be a big working machine in motion, I was the one stuck doing a hillbilly dance, making a *hee-haw* donkey sound, until everyone had their turn! Has this made me a better actor? Yes. Now I believe in simplicity. In acting, simple gestures and sounds will always suffice. But it was all in good fun."

—Annalisa de Lena, San Francisco

"I was shooting a movie, *Backfire*, by Ben Demaree. Starring as the hit woman, Nicole, I run down the stairs toting a gun while dragging my co-star. We sprint down the stairs with Alex, the cameraman, on our heels. Suddenly Alex yells, 'Put the gun down!' I turn to see two LAPD officers standing behind their car doors, guns drawn, yelling! I gingerly laid the gun in a flower planter and put my hands up. We

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...didn't get shot, thankfully! The lesson: Be careful if you're toting around a fake gun in public, and the LAPD does have a sense of humor!"

—Michelle Tomlinson, Los Angeles



"I was cast as the lead in a theatrical interpretation of *The Night of the Iguana*. The director had rewritten much of Tennessee Williams' great script in an effort to get to the bare essence of the play. A staggering 11 weeks of character work were allotted for the production. Rehearsals mainly consisted of bizarre games where the actors would chase each other around a lecture hall, fanning ourselves and screaming strange chants. I was not receptive to these ridiculous methods and was fired after three weeks. Lesson learned: Never rewrite Williams! Now, that's silly!"

—Thomas McGinty, Los Angeles



"Back in 2003, I got an audition for *Blind Date*. During the audition, ever the smart-ass, I jumped into a character that wasn't really me. I decided to improv as a redneck. It worked. So during filming, after my date and I left a bar, I was slightly intoxicated. During the cab ride, I decided to have a huge chew, but I needed something to spit in. So I asked [if she had anything]. She was appalled! The host, Roger Lodge, had some good stuff to say about me on the show, painting me the heel. Hey, my silly character study worked!"

—Michael Kirkland, Los Angeles

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### Comments:

**T.J. Jones**  
July 09, 2009  
I thought it would be a good thing, perhaps get noticed, if I wore the Apple getup, and pass out fliers for The Beanstalk Restaurant in front of Radio City Music Hall...big mistake..BIG MISTAKE

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#### Upcoming Events from Back Stage Calendar for Actors

##### Hot! Festival

Ongoing through Sat., Aug 1, 2009  
Dixon Place, 161 Chrystie St., New York, NY

##### Lincoln Center Festival

Ongoing through Sun., Jul 26, 2009  
Lincoln Center, 70 Lincoln Center Plaza, New York, NY

##### Summer Play Festival

Ongoing through Sun., Aug 2, 2009  
Public Theater, 425 Lafayette St., New York, NY

##### Undergroundzero Festival

Ongoing through Sun., Jul 26, 2009  
Performance Space 122, 150 First Ave., New York, NY

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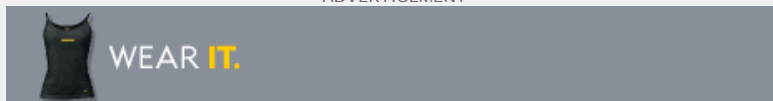
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