

THA 390: ADVANCED STAGE MANAGEMENT

RESPONSE #2

Consider the following situation: you have been hired as the stage manager for a show at a company where you have worked many times. You are paired with a “famous” guest director, whom the theatre feels lucky to have hired. This director, however, has a vastly different working style from yours—and the production staff—and details like rehearsal schedules, prop deadlines, and ensemble casting decisions are clearly not a priority for him. This frustrates the production team who state that design elements might be cut if there is no information soon, and they are considering boycotting production meetings because no decisions ever get made.

How would you rectify this situation? What outcome would be satisfactory to you? How do the things you have learned about your personality fit into your response?

THIS RESPONSE IS DUE IN CLASS ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 21

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RESPONSE #4

This is the one where you get to go spy on other people!

A few ground rules

1. You can choose any public place in which to observe a group.
2. The group must have at least three members
3. You cannot know anyone in the group.
4. Avoid groups with clear power relationships in play (teacher with students, parent with children, boss with employees)
5. Watch your group from a moderate distance. You do not need to hear what they say, but should be able to see facial expressions as well as movement. Don't be so close that you creep them out and change the focus of their conversation to you!

Describe what you observe

Base these observations on gestures, movement, facial expressions, etc. as opposed to any actual part of the conversation.

-Who is this group?

-Does the group appear to have gathered for a purpose? Are they currently being successful at achieving that purpose? What makes you think so? (or not)

-Is there someone who seems to be "in charge"? What makes you think this?

-Do the group members seem happy to be there? Do they seem to be in agreement with one another?

-Does anyone want to leave?

-What else do you notice or think that you have learned about this collection of people?

THIS RESPONSE IS DUE IN CLASS ON MONDAY October 17

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RESPONSE #8

Discuss the idea of error blindness. Think of a situation in which this occurred on a theatre production with which you were involved. Discuss what happened, and what role the leader played in allowing the error blindness to occur and/or in recovering from it. That leader might or might not have been you.

NOTE: To give you some further context on Kathryn Schulz's idea of error blindness, I have added the first chapter of her book, *Being Wrong*, online, in case it is helpful.

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RESPONSE #9

Watch the collection of very short film clips linked below. For each one, discuss your thoughts on the source of the conflict as well as the best method for working through that conflict, using the information presented in Chapter 19- Managing Conflict of *Emotionally Intelligent Leadership for Students*. Should you find yourself noting the same source or method for multiple clips, also discuss why these diverse situations can be categorized similarly.

<http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/stepmom/best-interests>

<http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/patch-adams/need-a-doctor>

<http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/the-lorax/nothing-will-stop-me>

<http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/fireproof/i-want-out>

THIS RESPONSE IS DUE IN CLASS ON MONDAY NOVEMBER 28