

Show me the Affect!

Renee (Thomas) Strand teaches at the 2010 National Deaf Conference



This is a fun and hands-on workshop designed to engage the participants in activities that really push the boundaries of their comfort zones. We will be focusing primarily on affect (facial expression) and the effect it has on the quality of your interpretation. Get ready to make some really crazy faces and challenge yourself to really analyze the work you produce. This workshop focuses on teaching techniques that use: eye gaze, empathic inference, mimicry, and nuanced behaviors to produce greater accuracy in your work. So get your “faces on” and come join this exciting workshop!

Renee's Bio




Renee is a full-time staff interpreter at Madison College in Madison, WI. She completed her Associate's degree in Interpreting from Gateway Technical College in 2003 and earned a certificate of Completion from the Interpreter Training Program at UW-Milwaukee in 2004.

Certified in 2008, Renee has worked in a variety of settings including religious, K-12, community interpreting, VRS, and post-secondary. She is also a charter member of WRCI (Wisconsin Registry of Christian Interpreters).


In February 2008, she taught "Hands Up" at the Anointed Interpreter Workshop 2008 in Oconomowoc, WI and at the National Deaf Evangelism Conference 2008 in Ames, IA. She presented "Rock That Sermon" at the Wisconsin Deaf Conference in 2007.

Renee began her interpreting path by interpreting in religious settings over ten years ago and has been committed to improving the quality of religious interpreters.

Show me the Affect!
 A synonyms for the word "affect" is: **have emotional impact.**



Affect is an feature of ASL that interpreters need to add to their work that will bring clarity.



What does the word "affect" mean? A synonyms for the word "affect" is: have emotional impact.

Affect is an feature of ASL that interpreters need to add to their work that will bring clarity. Definition of linear in English: Arranged in or extending along a straight or nearly straight line: or involving one dimension only:. ASL is 3D and has many different components to it. The thing that will effect that is your: use of space, body shifting, grammatical aspect, and affect (facial expressions). Pick one feature and work it until you breath it.

More information about Betty Colonomos *Foundations of Interpreting Series* can be found at <http://www.foundationsofinterpreting.com/>

We can be linguistically accurate that has the subject, verbs, objects and correct signs with appropriate facial grammar but let's move on to add the zing...affect (the emotional impact) **with our facial expressions!** When the speaker does something funky...be able to incorporate it into our interpretation and have it look good/right.

Show me the Affect!

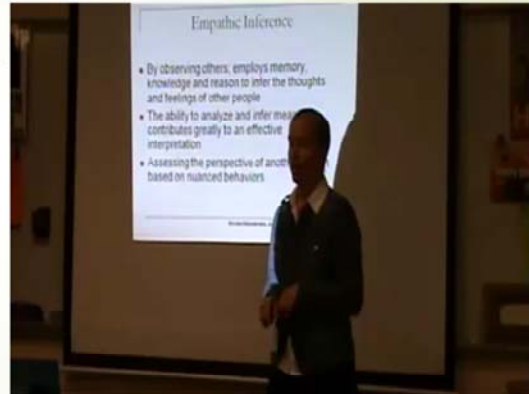


We think English transliteration looks boring. It should not look boring. Hearing people often don't have ASL grammatical features in their voice and can be monotone – but think about the words they are saying. As interpreters we try to “match” the presenter, but in those **ASL facial grammatical features on your face** need to match the words they are saying instead of the tone in their voice.

Let's challenge ourselves to make something happen **with your face** that your not use to. **Our facial expressions** is first thing that goes “down hill” when we are tired or when we are processing.

Empathic Inference

- By observing others; employs memory, knowledge and reason to infer the thoughts and feelings of other people
- The ability to analyze and infer meanings contributes greatly to an effective interpretation
- Assessing the perspective of another person based on nuanced behaviors

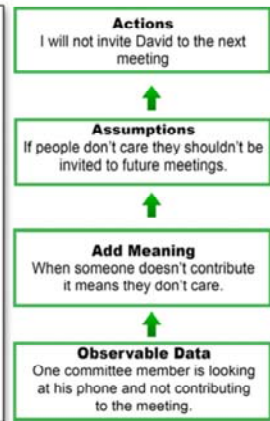
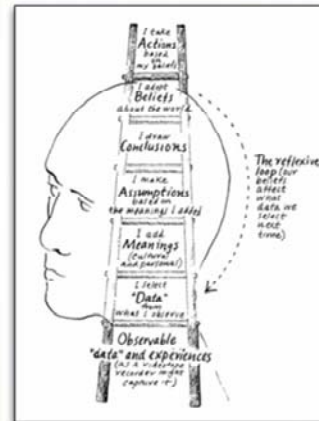


Other-Awareness

Assessing the perspective of another person based on **nuanced behaviors** is empathic inference. **Empathic inference takes observation of others and, employing memory, knowledge and reason, infers the thoughts and feelings of other people.** The ability to analyze and infer meanings from a combination of observations from the language being used and subtle and apparent behaviors from the speaker/signer contributes significantly to an effective interpretation.

Empathic Inference (picking up clues)

- Assessing the perspective of another person based on nuanced behaviors is empathic inference. **Empathic inference takes observation of others and, employing memory, knowledge and reason, infers the thoughts and feelings of other people.** The ability to analyze and infer meanings from a combination of observations from the language being used and subtle and apparent behaviors from the speaker/signer contributes significantly to an effective interpretation.
- Empathic Inference simply means: picking up clues**



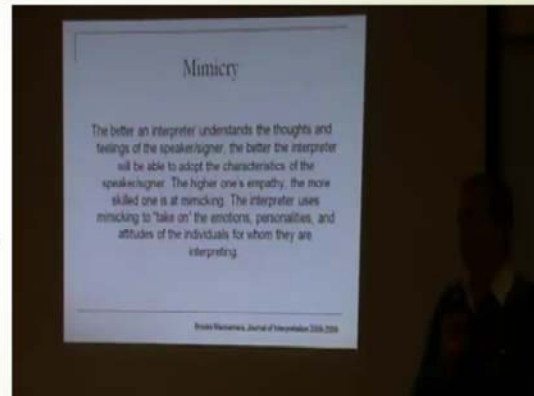
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Empathic Inference simply means: picking up clues

Mimicry

- The better an interpreter understand the thoughts and feelings of the speaker/signer, the better the interpreter will be able to adopt the characteristics of the speaker/signer. The higher one's empathy, the more skilled one is at mimicking. The interpreter uses mimicking to "take on" the **emotions, personalities, and attitudes** of the individuals for whom they are interpreting.



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We are not comedians or impressionists as interpreters. Mimicry gives us permission to "take on" the emotions, personalities and attitudes of presenters. We are 80% underwhelming than overwhelming – we need to bump it up by

incorporating facial things, things on hands, arms, and body.

We often get stuck on “sentential” things... meaning we hear an English sentence so we put out a Sign Language sentence and we then fail to make those connections. When we add that little bit of mimicry we use a ASL feature called “Describe than do”.

Mimicry



The interpreter uses mimicking to “take on” the

- 1. emotions
- 2. personalities
- 3. attitudes

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So what does that really mean?

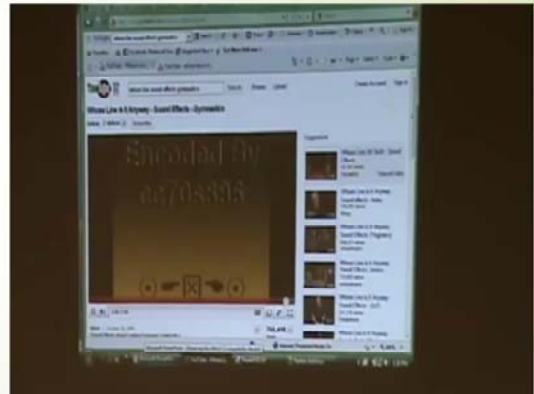
Ryan & Colin – Eastern European Olympics Gymnast



So what does that really mean?

Eastern European Olympics Gymnast Discussion

- In the middle of the routine he shifted to attention
- 3rd interruption he showed annoyance with his eyes
- Holding onto the pole shewing a bird away and showing where his body is in space



Eastern European Olympics Gymnast Discussion

Some things you noticed:

In the middle of the routine he shifted to attention

3rd interruption he showed annoyance with his eyes

Holding onto the pole shewing a bird away and showing where his body is in space

People like this could become amazing interpreters – but we need to become more like them. We have background knowledge but we need to drop the English “form” so our interpretations don’t look flat.

What does it look like on the hearing?



Ryan and Colin - The Barber

What does it look like on the hearing?

Turn the sound OFF and you have a visual that can be clearly understood.

The Barber Discussion

- He is using so much of what is missing in our work
- We all got the leather strap to sharpen the blade
- His hand guided up and down the man on the barber chair
- Affect is huge at making things clear like "faith" or abstract things
- Make the ASL connection point on the face and body



The Barber Discussion

He is using so much of what is missing in our work

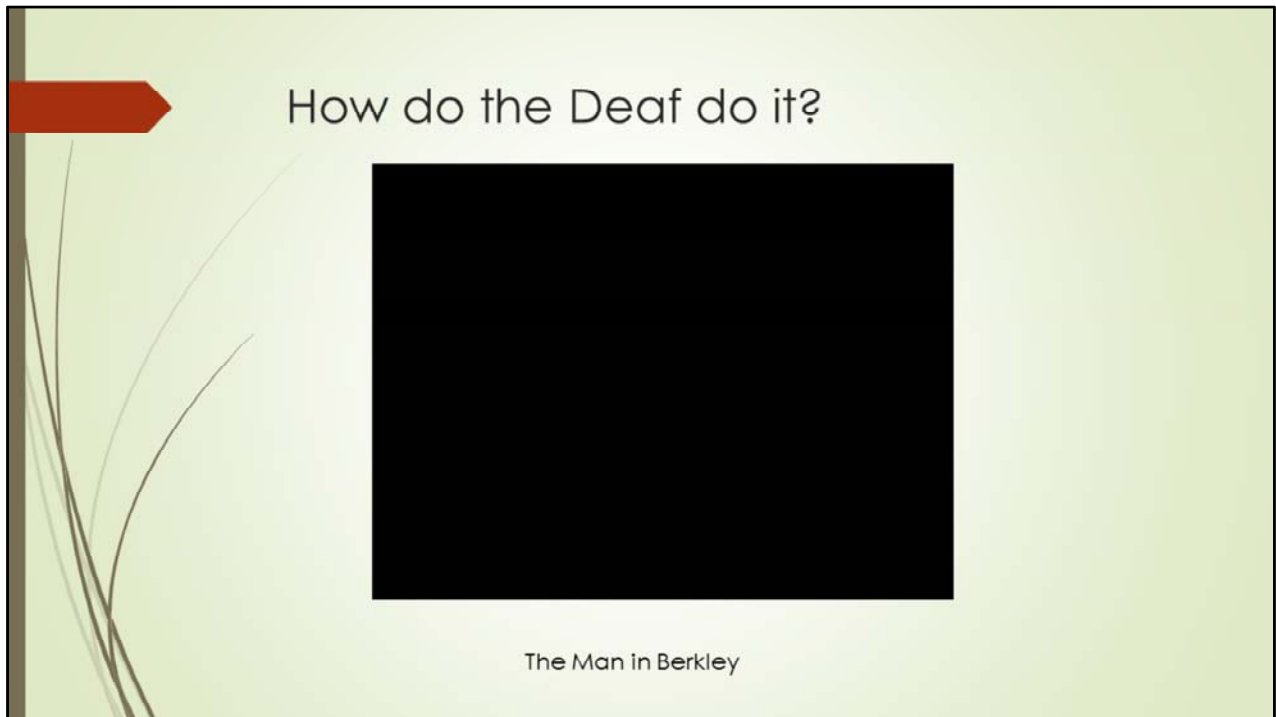
We all got the leather strap to sharpen the blade

His hand guided up and down the man on the barber chair

Affect is huge at making things clear like "faith" or abstract things

Make the ASL connection point on the face and body

It becomes challenging when the speaker is speaking on things that are more abstract (existing in thought or as an idea but not having a physical or concrete existence.) We can't use classifiers, because it's not something concrete, but Affect can make it visual!



How do the Deaf do it?

The Man in Berkley

The Man in Berkley Discussion

- ▀ What Affect is shown in this clip?
- ▀ Grabbing his arm
- ▀ Body shifting between two people
- ▀ Perched lips
- ▀ Weird guy with a tattoo
- ▀ Imitates different people
- ▀ Girl in high heels
- ▀ I see someone (head/neck back & forth or how he is feeling...sheepish)
- ▀ I have an idea
- ▀ Text in black and white
- ▀ He jumps out of the way of the cane to learn it's not shovel, but it's a blind man's cane / not coffee cup, but its a money can.



The Man in Berkley

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Lesson 2

- ▶ Eye Gaze
- ▶ Snow White
- ▶ Music

Eye Gaze

- Who's talking
- Who has the authority

Bill Cosby - Noah

Bill Cosby – Noah

Eye Gaze - hearing comedians do it all the time! You know who is talking and who has the authority by the eye gaze. The same thing needs to in our interpreting, child to adult, employee to employer, man to God... ect.

Eye Gaze

■ An Affair to Remember



An Affair To Remember

Despite being engaged to other people - Handsome Nicky Ferrante and beautiful night club singer Terry McKay have a romance while on a cruise from Europe to New York. Everyone on the cruise know they have fallen in love with each other. **This scene shows communication with eye gaze only.** They both agree to reunite at the top of the Empire State Building in six months. However, an unfortunate accident keeps Terry from the reunion, and Nicky fears that she has married or does not love him anymore.

Eye Gaze Discussion

- Communication with just our eyes is an "affect" function.
- Eye gazing serves a variety of functions.
- Eye gazing often accompanies indexing.
- Eye gazing expresses agreement with the object, while head tilting expresses agreement with the subject. However, when the object is the first person (the signer), *the roles switch* and eye gaze agrees with the subject and head tilt agrees with the object.
- Eye gazing can be used to express agreement with either the subject or the object **depending on the sentence**.
- There are **two types of eye gazing**: one associated with the definite form and one associated with the indefinite form, which are **comparable to the English 'the' and 'a' respectively**.



Eye Gaze

In American Sign Language, **eye gazing serves a variety of functions**. It can regulate turn taking and mark constituent boundaries. Eye gazing is also frequently used to repair or monitor utterances and to direct the addressee's attention.

Indexing is the establishment of a point in space as a referent to a noun. This is generally done by pointing, with either the dominant or non-dominant hand. **Eye gazing often accompanies indexing** by looking at the same location that the finger is pointing to. Eye gazing can also index independently, but this does not occur too often, and, when it does occur, it is usually considered a less emphatic way of indexing a noun. So, eye gazing in indexing is usually an optional component that is meant to draw extra attention to the sign being indexed.

Eye gazing plays a greater syntactic role in expressing object and subject agreement. In *transitive* (a direct object) sentences, **eye gazing expresses agreement with the object, while head tilting expresses agreement with the subject**. In the sentence, generally, subject agreement begins first and then object agreement beginning with

both starting before the signing of the verb phrase. Both agreements end around the same time a little bit before the finishing of the verb phrase. So, for example, if a person signs COMPARE while looking over a set of books, the signer is indicating the direct object of books through eye gaze. The sentence would then translate to approximately "Compare these books" **However, when the object is the first person (the signer), the roles switch and eye gaze agrees with the subject and head tilt agrees with the object.** This is most likely because people cannot look at themselves and, therefore, cannot express the first person with eye gaze. In *intransitive* (not a direct object) sentences, eye gazing, head tilting, or both express agreement with the subject and, as before, the agreement starts just before the verb phrase begins and finishes just before the verb phrase ends. However, this time, the eye gaze and the head tilt begin at the same time. **In sum, eye gazing can be used to express agreement with either the subject or the object depending on the sentence.**

There are two types of eye gazing: one associated with the definite form and one associated with the indefinite form, which are comparable to the English 'the' and 'a' respectively. However, note that it is not a direct match. The definite eye gaze is pronounced by a direct eye gaze at a precise location associated with the indexed sign. In the indefinite form, the eye gaze may wander around slightly or take the form of an unfocused stare. Thus, the pronunciation of the eye gaze can distinguish the definite from the indefinite form.

In total, eye gazing serves a variety of function, including indexing, expressing subject and object agreement, and distinguishing the definite and indefinite forms.

Eye Gaze



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- 2. indexing
- 3. distinguish the definite from and the indefinite form
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Affect with an Apple

- Snow White - an apple
- Third grader handing it to teacher
- Take a bite
- Delicious
- See a worm in it



Affect with an Apple

Snow White -an apple
Third grader handing it to teacher
Take a bite
Delicious
See a worm in it

Affect in Music

- Rock: Guitar, Drummer
- Orchestra: Conductor, piano, violinist, flute, cymbals
- Rap: Rapper with dreadlocks, Keyboard, Drummer, guitarist,



Music

Rock: Guitar, Drummer

Orchestra: Conductor, piano, violinist, flute, cymbals

Rap: Rapper with dreadlocks, Keyboard, Drummer, guitarist,

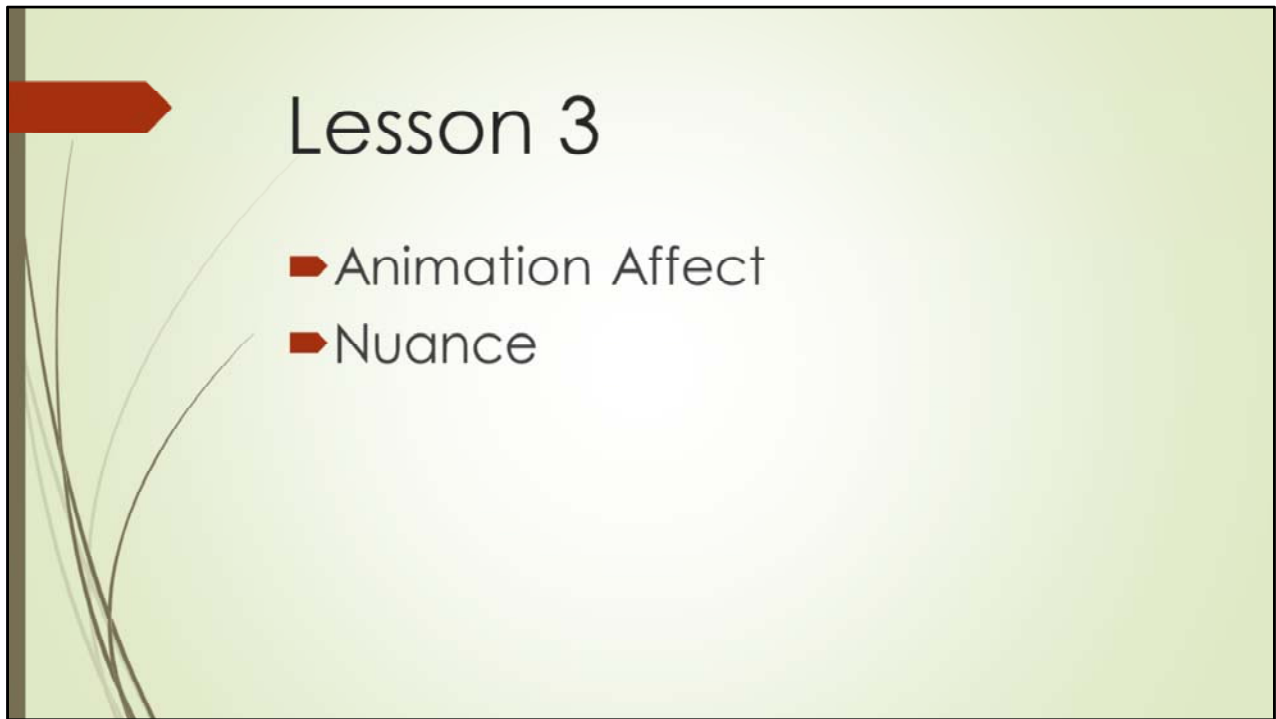
Affect in Music



Mercy Said No

Music

Mercy Said No Song Drama in Indianapolis, IN 2010



Lesson 3

Animation Affect

Nuance

Animation Affect (emotional impact)



Observe Gru's expression when he learns that Vector just stole a pyramid... "affect"... oh, that guy?

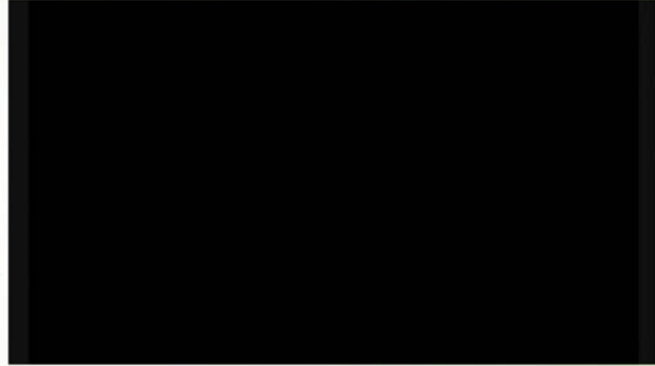
Despicable Me

Observe Gru's expression when he learns that Vector just stole a pyramid... "affect"... oh, that guy!

Animation Affect (emotional impact)



The "smoulder" affect

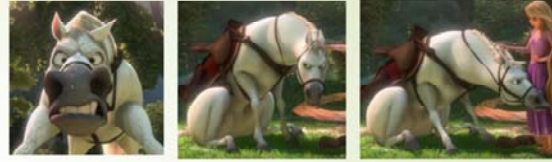


Tangled – 'You broke my smoulder...'

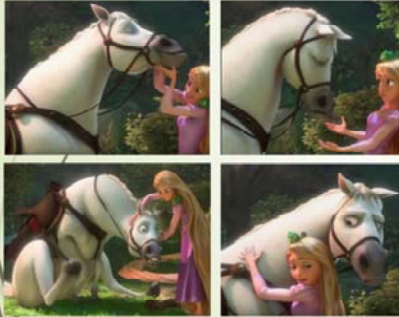
Tangled – 'You broke my smoulder...'

Taken from Disney's Tangled, this charmer tries to charm his way out of trouble...

Animation Affect



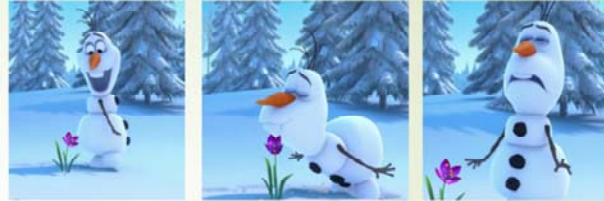
- Tangled Rapunzel n Flynn meet Maximus



Tangled Rapunzel n Flynn meet Maximus

Animation Affect

- Frozen Disney's teaser trailer
- No words... just "affect"




Frozen Disney's teaser trailer

No words – just "affect"

Scenario 1

- ▶ Hollywood director affect



Scenario 1 – Hollywood director affect

Notice the mimicry in expressions and the building fo a climax

Scenario 2

■ Waitress affect



Scenario 2 – Waitress affect

Notice: the water mistake. **Subtle things make the difference.**

Scenario 3

- Child with the raisin in the nose affect



Scenario 3 – Child with the raisin in the nose affect

Notice: The Dr going up the child's nose

Scenario 4

- Oil change affect

Example of: **Empathic Inference (picking up clues)**

- Notice Rene's responds to the comments about it being "a blond lady" going in for an oil change...
- Did you catch the subtle hint in her comment? This is an example when you "read between the lines" and infer meaning from a combination of observations from the language being used and subtle (nuance/small) and apparent behaviors (hands on hips/rolling her eyes) from her. (Rene is blond)



Scenario 4 – Oil change affect

A lady going in an mechanic shop to get her oil changed and the mechanic keeps coming in to try to sell her other things.

Perfect example of: **Empathic Inference (picking up clues)**

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Scenario 5

- Walmart angry customer affect



Scenario 6 – Walmart angry customer affect

Notice: The really “big customer”

Scenario 6

- Bank Robber affect



Scenario 4 – Bank Robber affect

Notice: walkie-talkie on the shoulder

Nuance Behaviors

- **Simple Definition of *nuance***

a very small difference in color, tone, meaning, etc.

- **Full Definition of *nuance***

1 : a **subtle distinction** or variation

2 : a subtle quality : **nicety**

3 : sensibility to, awareness of, or ability to express **delicate** shadings (as of meaning, feeling, or value)



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Nuance Behaviors (a subtle distinction)



The Sock Activity



Gone With the Wind – Clark Gable & Vivian Leigh
\$300 for Tera scene

Nuance Behaviors - a subtle distinction

We need to get more nuance behaviors than signs on our hands.

The scene has a lot of verbiage between Scarlett O'Hara and Rhett Butler. Scarlett made this beautiful dress from her mom's curtains and she is trying to get Rhett to give her some money. She is pretending to be in love with him. Rhett falls for it and then realizes that she's totally messing with him and decides to mess with her back and gets her to say all this stuff that she shouldn't say. Then he says he doesn't have any money.

Notice SOME nuance behaviors:

Scarlett say...

On the forehead like a good (she leans her forehead forward expecting a kiss)

Rhett says...

I'll wait and hope for better things (his eyebrows raise and puts smirk on his face...like he would rather have sex with her later)

Scarlett says...

In a moment I shall cry (her back is turned away from him but her eyes betray her words)

Rhett says...

Worth being in jail just to hear you say it...well worth it (Scarlett tries to hide her hands as it is the tattle-tale that she is lying)

This is for practice to act it out and not worry about what they said. The point is practice nuance behaviors.

Nuance practice



Renee's rendition of the scene
"An Affair To Remember"

Nuance practice