

# Schirle's 17

## Solid Suggestions for Superb Mask Performance!

by

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### **SEE**

You can't see if you don't look. The mask always sees something and ...it always shows what it sees.

*Spirit* of the mask. Honor it, reveal it.

**SIZE** --of gesture, energy, commitment, and play-- is extra-ordinary, not pedestrian.

**START** each idea through the mask. The mask gets the idea; the mask leads the movement.


**SPEED** ...must be appropriate to the rhythm of the mask. Mask-time allows the audience to see.

### **STILLNESS**

There is power and mystery in the stillness of the mask, not constantly in motion.

### **SUPPORT/SERVE**

The body and the level of play must support the mask.

**SELECT**  Out of 20 gestures, use only the one or two essential to the character.

### **S E P A R A T E**

Head from body, beat from beat, traveling movements from gestures, gestures from lines...all that.

### **SPECIFY**

Be absolutely clear about your object of focus, your actions, your intentions...

### **STOP**

Stops -- focus and reveal the mask.

### **SIGNAL**

to help the audience follow your story. If the genre allows it, report to them often.

### **SURPRISE**

Use changes of direction of energy and rhythm to show "anything can happen!"

### **SURROUND**

The mask is a fragment, a corner of a larger picture to be framed with costume.

### **SURRENDER**

to the mask. Allow yourself to be 'inhabited' by the spirit of the mask.

### **SUSTAIN**

The hardest: to sustain the life of your character through all its actions, reactions, and transitions.

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