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Steve Crosby

Fairbanks, Alaska

1980s

Steve Lay, interviewer

University Focus series

Steve Crosby talked about credibility of actors. It has to be there for the audience to forget where they are and get involved in the moment. He considers that true drama. He talked about the audition process. He looks for people that he can communicate with. Once he knows he can communicate then they go through a process. Most of the students have never experienced his type of directing. They haven't been pushed this far. The students do their lines and then do a character study. They then build a scenario. There is no one definition for people. He asks his students to embellish. They still need to create and construct. It is a long process to digest all of this. They need a four or six week rehearsal period. They can become as familiar with the character as themselves. There is work done on stage but there is also the basic blocking such as the movements. As they learn their lines and the blocking it becomes second nature. Everything that is said has an intellectual or emotional base. They study that within the context of the scene. There is the polishing point. They make it credible. It is a complex process. Steve Crosby said directing can be compared to a bicycle wheel. The spokes in the wheel all have to be present if anything is missing then it will through the wheel out of whack. Directing is the same. The more that is missing the more out of kilter. The director works with every single one of the actors and pulls out the best performance that each actor is capable of doing. Lighting is used for dramatic effect. Sound effects and costuming are all part of directing. The most difficult part of directing is being as involved in the dramatic moment and the characters. Then he has to pull himself back and observe as an outsider. It can be a difficult process. He discusses the play they are working on - The Dining room. It is an anthropological study of the vanishing breed of the eastern WASP. It depicts an entire lifestyle. It has eighteen scenes with sixty different characters.