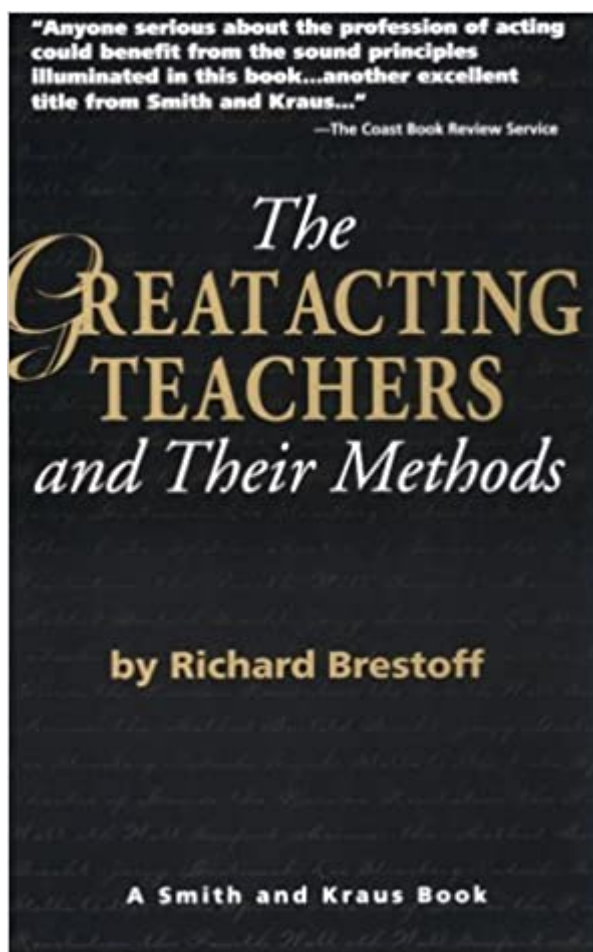


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# The Great Acting Teachers And Their Methods (Career Development Series) (Career Development Book)



## Synopsis

With clarity and insight, Richard Brestoff introduces the great acting teachers, explaining their techniques and how they are applied today. Beginning with Quintilian and Delsarre he guides us to the present with an inside look at what is currently being taught in the major acting schools and private acting studios; The Actor's Studio, Yale University, NYU, Juillard and many more are visited. Great Acting Teachers and Their Methods will help you understand the most important ideas about acting, where they originated and how they are used in training programs today. Some of the teachers focused on are Stella Adler, Sanford Meisner, Lee Strasberg, Brecht, Stanislavsky, and Suzuki.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

..each program is discussed and evaluated with specific teachers and types of training techniques offered --The Coast Book Review Service February 1996

Richard Brestoff is an Assistant Professor of Drama in the Claire Trevor School of the Arts at the University of California, Irvine. He is an actor with credits on Broadway, Off-Broadway, in regional theater, and in film, television and radio. He is the author of The Camera Smart Actor, The Great Acting Teachers and Their Methods, Acting Under the Circumstances, and most recently, The Actor's Wheel of Connection.

A very basic overview/primer of the most popular acting methods over time. The conversational nature and narration of mock lessons with teachers is a bit annoying to some, but you can glance over those parts and still understand the concepts.

A must for any actor. I read this as a working stiff with a class in 20 years. As I transition from full-time performer to teacher this was invaluable. I wish I had it back in my days as an acting student. Better than most texts trying to teach the techniques of these masters.

I bought this book for a class and then we never used it. However the professor insisted she was taking directly from the book the exercises we were doing in class. I think if you are looking for some new exercises to try for yourself that this is a good book for you. It is very physical work so do not attempt reading along as you go. Read, then try.

It took me a while to really get into this book. I bought it for the Kindle and have a free app on my iPhone. My acting professor suggested it to me as a good starting place to begin reading books for my senior seminar. Once I plowed through chapter 2 (took me 2 hours) it was a simple and compelling read. It lays out many methods taught by acting teachers and actors themselves over the course of generations and I feel that it will help me to appreciate honing my craft :)

If you've ever wondered what's behind acting school names like Stanislavski and Method Acting, this book does a fine job of telling you. I learned, for instance, that Thespian comes from Thespis, the first acclaimed actor who lived in Ancient Greece and was quizzed about his innovative method by Solon. This book is a great way to find out how various acting concepts evolved into what we experience today. A surprising example of how this information can make a performance more fulfilling, I was watching the movie *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus*, and having read this book I could see that the actors in the opening scenes were doing a good presentation of pre-1900, pre-Stanislavski acting. It deepened the movie for me, and that was fun.

A good read, and worth having if you are looking for an above average overview of its subjects, and I suppose that's all it could be - but if you want to seriously investigate any of those contained here, you'd profit more by a book (and there are many on each) devoted exclusively to that individual. Enjoyable,

A little dry, but the different writing styles make theatre history more interesting.

This book has sections/chapters on all the great acting teachers such as Meisner and Strasberg just to name two. It also includes info on some of the great acting schools and their methods. A great tool for helping students understand the different methods that have been taught over time.

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