

Male red costume

California Suite by Neil Simon (1977) Comedy

Explanation of performance Intentions for My Second Extract, Group Scene 1, from Scene 3 Act 2

The role I'm playing is Mort, a 30-something year old man, married and on vacation in California with his wife (Beth) and their best friends (Stu and Gert). He is very stressed and short-fused but still deeply cares for those around him.

In the extract my character is returning to his hotel room with his wife, who just had an accident on the tennis court. After tending to the injury and complaining about how it was their friends' fault, Gert and Stu walk in and the couples begin arguing. The scene ends with a fight between Mort and Stu.

My character's objective in this extract is to defend his wife and dignity as well as try to get through the holiday without breaking down. I want to show my character's change in emotions to be very dramatic and fluctuating (angry, caring, offended, apologetic, livid).

Key vocal and physical qualities that define my character are an American accent, rising inflexions, and tension-filled movements. My key intention is make the audience resonate with the characters' conflict while maintaining a lighthearted and amusing atmosphere that feels familiar and traditional to late twentieth century sitcom.

400 words