

I had the pleasure of working with Will for the first time this past fall, when he helped me stage four songs for my performance application to The Lotte Lenya Competition, a distinguished singing prize. I am a confident singer, but when it comes to acting, and “owning” space on a big stage, I have always been extremely nervous and uncomfortable. Because I had never found the right acting coach, I never was able to address these insecurities in my performance technique.

In past applications to this competition, I had presented sets that showed me mostly standing still, frozen center stage, focusing all of my energy on hitting high notes, terrified to move around and feeling very unsure of what to do with my arms. During my first session with Will, I found myself on doing things I never thought I could do -- within literally minutes, without even realizing it, I had gone from singing frozen in place to living in the world of the song and working physically without a shred of self-consciousness. I genuinely don't know how he did it – the debilitating self-consciousness that had plagued me for years was gone in *minutes*.

I wish I could say what's different about Will from the directors and coaches I have worked with in the past - but it's hard to define. He is intrinsically supportive and encouraging, and yet no critiques or evaluations go unsaid. He is extraordinarily efficient, which is also important, but takes time to address every necessary detail.

The most notable aspect of working with him was that I left every single session bubbling with joy, smiling the whole way home - I was just having so much fun. Free of anxieties, comfortable in a safe acting space, and seeing that my performance was so obviously better with each session, I just derived so much joy from the experience.

I'm incredibly grateful to Will for the sessions of play and betterment, and I strongly recommend him to anyone looking for some coaching to expand their work or just become better at auditioning.

– Cecelia Ticktin, Singer-actor

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