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"WHAT'S MY MOTIVATION?" UNDERSTANDING MOTIVATION OF HIGH SCHOOL ACTORS

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This research investigated the motivation of high school actors in light of stage fright and fear of public speaking. Through survey, observation, and interview, high school actors' motivation was examined and reasons for doing theatre were uncovered. Results showed that high school actors, while the vast majority do experience some degree of stage fright, overcome fear through personal and individual means. The reason students desire to confront the fear is their passion for theatre. Students who perform more did not necessarily experience less fear, but did have a more defined approach to coping with the fear. Extending these results into the classroom, to make students more comfortable giving speeches, the topics should be something the students value.