

BURLESQUE ACT INSPIRATION EXERCISES

Worksheet #1: A List of Inspirations

The best act inspirations are things that excite you. List as many things as you can think of for each category that excite you, or that you can imagine including in your acts.

It can be favorites (the color you love most) or just something strange (what if you stripped as an antelope?)

If it helps, set a short time limit (15 or 30 seconds per category) and just write down as much as you can think of.

Colours:

Foods:

Words:

Seasons/ Weather/ Nature:

Types of Music or Specific Songs:

Animals and Non-Human Living Things:

TV Shows or Movies:

Games:

Celebrities or Characters:

Anything that doesn't fit above:

Look over the list of ideas and circle the three you like best. Expand at least one of those ideas so that it includes the following:

1. A costuming idea (doesn't have to be realistic!)
2. A story that might accompany it (what would happen in the act?)
3. At least one song you could use for the act (even if it's one you would probably not use in real life!)

If this works for you, try it with several items from your inspiration list, and see if any great act ideas pop up!

Worksheet #2: Storytelling Sparks

Grab any ten items in your house, or ask your roommate to do it for you. Boring or uninteresting items are fine.

Look at each item, and write down a way it could be used in a burlesque act, or inspire a burlesque act.

It can be weird and unfinished and your notes can be vague. Notes like "kissing a frog", "sofa pillow blues", "cardboard box head", "the ice queen finally melts" are totally fine.)

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

7)

8)

9)

10)

Look over the list of ideas and circle the three you like best. Expand at least one of those ideas so that it includes the following:

- 1) A costuming idea that might work for this act (doesn't have to be realistic!)
- 2) A story that might happen during this act (it can be silly or non-sensical - don't think too hard!)
- 3) At least one song you could use (even if it's not a song you'd use in real life.)

If this works for you, try it with several items from your inspiration list, and see if any great act ideas pop up!

Worksheet #3: Pinterest Treasure Hunt

This can be helpful for visual thinkers! Try any one of these treasure hunts to seek unexpected ideas and inspirations.

TREASURE HUNT #1: RANDOM ASSOCIATIONS

1. Use a random word generator to pick a word (I use <https://www.randomwordgenerator.com>).
2. Enter that search term in Pinterest and see what comes up.
3. Find three things from the search results that could serve as act inspiration

My random word was "trustee", which seems boring. But I found an image of an amazing fur stole, a cocktail in a colour I'd like to have in a costume, an a picture of Rapunzel which made me think about how fun it would be to do an act with super long hair.

TREASURE HUNT #2: MY FAVORITE BURLESQUE

Enter the word "Burlesque" into the Pinterest search bar and see what pops up. Now try a few different search terms: "Funny Burlesque" and "Neoburlesque". You'll get an entirely new set of results with a totally different vibe.

See which things excite you within the burlesque pins - is there a theme? Certain kinds of costuming or makeup or styles? Certain colors or movements? An era you're drawn to? A prop that makes your imagination spark?

Are there things you find boring or offputting? Stuff you see that makes you think "I definitely don't want to do THAT kind of burlesque!" Cool! Burlesque is a lot of different things, and not all of them will be for you,

If you find an inspiration from either of these treasure hunts that you like, expand it further to include:

- 1) A costuming idea that might work for this act (doesn't have to be realistic!)
- 2) A story that might happen during this act (it can be silly or nonsensical - don't think too hard!)
- 3) At least one song you could use (even if it's not a song you'd use in real life.)

Hope you found some sparks of inspiration here! xox Jez