

41 questions

You have to build a backstory, a history for your character. To help that process use these 41 questions:

1. What is the last name of your character?
Where were you born?
2. What kind of childhood did you have?
What were the lessons you learned?
3. What were the best and worst incidents in your childhood?
4. What are your mother's and father's names?
What did they do? How do you feel about them?
5. Did they love you? Did you love them?
What did you do to be loved by them?
6. Do you have brothers and sisters?
How were they treated by your parents?
What are your feelings about them?
7. What makes your character laugh? angry? afraid? cry?
8. How does your character dress?
9. Where are you in the scene? (*Let the place affect you*)
10. Why are you saying or acting like this now?
Is it out of PAIN or FEAR?
11. What is the overall objective of the character in the whole play?
12. What change do you want from your partner? (*Objective/why now*)
13. What can you lose in the scene?
Are the STAKES HIGH ENOUGH?
14. What are you physically doing in the scene? (*Objects must have meaning*)
15. Where is the contradiction of the character?
16. What were the life-changing events for your character?
17. When were you first in love?
18. Where and when was your first sexual experience?
How was it?
What does sex mean to you?
How do you use it?
19. What are you addicted to? (*Drugs, money, fame, pain, sex or work?*)
20. What events in your life you have failed in or succeeded at?
21. What is your goal in life?
How is it going?
What is it about your body that you like and don't like?
22. What do you value?
23. What is your best quality? (*Funny, honest...*)
24. What is the worst part of your personality? (*Impatience...*)

25. What do you do for a living?
How does that affect your attitude?
26. When are you an aggressive or a passive person?
27. What is the body language of your character?
Where is the tension?
Where do you walk from? (*The head, the heart or your sex?*)
28. What do you dream about?
What do you daydream about?
29. How does your partner affect you? (*Your partner is 25% right!*)
30. What part of yourself do you hide from others?
31. What is the dominant colour of your character?
32. If the character was an animal, what would it be?
33. What is the history of the other people in your scene?
34. Where is the conflict in the scene? (*Are the OBSTACLES big enough?*)
What is your way of getting what you want in the scene? (*Tactics – sexy, smart, humour, sadness, anger, pity*)
35. Why does this scene exist?
What is it trying to show about the character?
36. What pains you?
37. Is there something in your life where you can PERSONALLY IDENTIFY with the event and the character's needs? (*The more personal and meaningful, the better!*)
38. What is your philosophy of life?
Where did that come from?
39. What is the emotional and verbal and physical preparation you must do before you start the scene? (*You must come into the scene loaded*)
40. Where did you just come from?
41. How are you trying to WIN in the scene?