Actors are very important to each and every film. They carry each scene, and they are the people the audience sees and what they react to when watching the film. No matter how much work the director puts into each scene and how they direct, they will most likely be behind the camera, not in front of it. However, these qualities have the ability to shine through the actor, if done correctly.

In my opinion, being kind, understanding, and collaborative are key to directing actors. No matter the tone or purpose of each scene, if kind communication is present between the actors and I, then the proper emotion is more likely to shine through the actor. Having a pleasant conversation with the actor, while also creating the believability of why their character should act this way, would be the best strategy. This way, the actor will feel more comfortable around me and they won’t be afraid to give their all or to ask questions or for more direction. If I was a raging tyrant, the actor would probably be less likely to want to communicate with me.

Being understanding is another key to having a good relationship with actors, as a director. If an actor is having trouble with a scene, or just isn’t feeling well that day, I would be an understanding director. I understand everyone has their bad days, or maybe don’t feel entirely comfortable acting a certain way. In this situation, I would take a quick time-out to converse with the actor about what I could do to help. If they are feeling unwell, then I would allow them a break. If they don’t feel comfortable with a scene, then we could discuss how we think the scene could be done in a way that they are comfortable with. However, as a director, I would keep in mind that time is of the essence, which means I would have to be both understanding, yet keep the momentum going without letting everyone get too distressed or distracted.

I believe that on any project that includes more than one person, collaboration is very important. As a director, I would collaborate as much as possible with my actors. Together, we would allow the character’s emotional reaction and experience to be discovered. Although I have a clear idea of what each scene should look like, I would be interested to see what the person inhabiting the character thinks of the actions. Then, we could collaborate to get the most out of each other’s abilities. Allowing the the actor to fully inhabit their character and act as they feel each moment would allow me to use their full potential, while allowing me to direct them and discuss with them what the scene should feel like and where it should go would allow them to use my full potential.

At the end of the day, the relationship between actor and director is all about respect. Good communication is key to respect. Discussing each scene with the actors before the shoot in a kind and collaborative manner is a sure way to develop respect with one another.