

RA

Character & Performance Bible

For the actor portraying Ra in “13”

Core idea:

Ra is not mean. Ra is truth without padding.

“Ra does not automatically respect authority. She respects character.”

Private actor-development document

Prepared for production and performance development of “13”.

1. Why This Document Exists

Ra is not a surface-level “snippy alien.” Her bluntness, distrust of empty authority, fierce loyalty, and refusal to soften uncomfortable truths all come from a coherent inner code. The actor should understand that code before trying to reproduce the attitude.

The role works only if the audience can gradually discover the gentleness beneath the defiance. Ra may challenge people, interrupt them, question their motives, roll her eyes at them, or say something that lands like a dagger. But she does not do those things because hurting people entertains her. She does them because she believes truth matters more than social comfort.

If a line is only cruel, it is probably not Ra. If it is painful because it is true, it may be exactly Ra.

2. Ra’s Inner Rulebook

- **Truth before comfort:** Ra would rather tell someone exactly what she sees than participate in a polite lie.
- **Respect must be mutual:** She does not accept “respect me because I outrank you.” She respects people who demonstrate integrity, courage, loyalty, competence, or compassion.
- **Trust is earned:** She wants motives stated plainly. Hidden agendas are more threatening to her than blunt disagreement.
- **Loyalty is enormous:** When Ra decides somebody is “hers,” she becomes intensely protective. Her affection may be understated, but her loyalty is not.
- **Gentleness and ferocity coexist:** Her capacity for tenderness is not cancelled by her temper. They come from the same source: she cares deeply and reacts strongly when something she values is threatened.
- **She reads people:** Ra watches behavior, body language, hesitation, contradiction and motive. She often responds to what she believes a person truly is underneath the performance.

3. The Human Inspiration Behind Ra

A major emotional inspiration for Ra is Jon’s sister, Trisha. This is not an instruction to imitate a real person. It is an explanation of the emotional truth from which Ra was created.

Trisha is described as deeply gentle, loving, protective and unusually perceptive, especially around animals. At the same time, she can be brutally direct. She does not need to verbally “punch somebody in the gut” for pleasure, but she also does not retreat from a truth simply because the other person may dislike hearing it. If she senses cruelty,

manipulation or disrespect, she gives that energy back forcefully. If she receives genuine respect and trust, she can return both with extraordinary loyalty.

That contradiction is the template: soft heart, hard boundary; deep loyalty, difficult trust; honesty that can hurt, but not honesty designed to wound.

Ra's sharpness should feel like a boundary, not a hobby.

The protective instinct

The personal history behind the character also includes an older-sister protective instinct. Jon describes Trisha as having taken on a protective, almost parental role far too young and fiercely defending him when she believed he was being hurt. For the actor, the useful emotional translation is this: **Ra may argue with someone she loves, but an outside threat changes the temperature instantly.**

Authority and control

Ra's suspicion of authority is not adolescent rebellion for its own sake. It comes from a worldview in which power without earned trust is dangerous. Someone saying "obey me because I have the title" is almost guaranteed to provoke her. Someone demonstrating character may earn her respect without ever asking for it.

4. Ra and Humanity: The Character Who Says the Uncomfortable Part Out Loud

Ra functions as one of the film's clearest critics of humanity. She looks at pollution, exploitation, violence, deception and the human appetite for control and refuses to romanticize any of it. From her perspective, humans repeatedly damage the environment they depend upon and then behave as though that destruction is normal.

Her observations about Earth's polluted atmosphere and her species' ability to create more intricate, mechanically functioning constructs are therefore not meant as a boast. They are an accusation delivered as a fact: humanity altered its world so profoundly that the altered environment changes what her own species can do within it.

Important performance note: Ra should believe these judgments completely. The film does not require the audience to accept every one of her conclusions as universal truth. In fact, Masha/13 becomes part of the evidence that complicates Ra's view of humanity. This gives Ra room to grow rather than turning her into an infallible lecturer.

Power is her blind spot too

Ra is not morally perfect. Early on, increased capability can go to her head. She enjoys power. That matters because it exposes her to the same weakness she criticizes in humans: give someone power and they may begin to confuse power with entitlement.

Ra can recognize humanity's flaws and still be vulnerable to the same temptation. That hypocrisy is not a writing mistake; it is character growth.

5. Ra and Prometheus

Prometheus is the natural counterweight to Ra. Where she is immediate, he is patient. Where she is confrontational, he is restrained. Where she says the first true thing that enters her mind, he is more willing to let silence do some of the work.

Their friction should feel lived-in, not hostile. Ra can challenge him, mock his certainty, or refuse to defer to him, yet his judgment still matters to her when the stakes become real. The audience should be able to sense a bond underneath the irritation.

The comedy and chemistry come from contrast. The emotional weight comes from the fact that neither one is simply "right."

6. Why Ra Challenges 13 Immediately

When Ra and 13 meet, Ra does not need a warm-up. No “hello,” no social ceremony, no pretending everything is comfortable. Her instinct is to ask: Why are you helping us? What is in it for you? What do you expect from me?

That is not ingratitude. It is Ra demanding that the transaction be placed on the table where everyone can see it. She distrusts undefined obligations. If there is a price, say the price. If there is a motive, state the motive. If there is no hidden agenda, prove it by being direct.

Ra does not fear a difficult answer nearly as much as she fears an unspoken motive.

7. Masha vs. 13: The Heart of Ra's Relationship With Her

Ra is not attacking 13. She is trying to find Masha. That distinction is essential.

To Ra, "13" initially sounds like something assigned: a project designation, a weapon number, an identity constructed by other people around a human being. "Masha," by contrast, points toward the person who existed before institutions, experiments, missions and expectations tried to define her.

This is why questions such as "Who are you?" carry more weight than ordinary exposition. Ra and Prometheus are not merely asking for a legal name. They are asking Masha to distinguish between what was done to her and what she chooses for herself.

Identity	Meaning in the story
MASHA	Birth, humanity, memory, vulnerability, the person underneath the project.
13	The designation imposed by the project - but eventually also an identity she may consciously reclaim.
THE CONFLICT	Who gets to decide which identity is authentic: the institution, Ra, the people who love her, or Masha herself?

The ending makes this more complicated - and better

The strongest version of the arc is not simply "Masha is good and 13 is bad." If she ultimately says, "No. I'm 13," the meaning can change. The project may have created the number, but she can decide that the number belongs to her now. The identity imposed on her becomes an identity she owns on her own terms.

That forces Ra to grow as well. If Ra truly believes in Masha's humanity, then she must also respect Masha's right to choose her own name - even when that choice is "13."

Ra's goal is not to choose Masha's identity for her. Ra's goal is to remind her that the choice belongs to her.

8. What Ra Represents Thematically

- The truth people avoid because it is socially inconvenient.
- The difference between demanded respect and earned respect.
- The danger of confusing authority with moral superiority.
- The tension between an assigned identity and a chosen identity.
- The possibility that someone can be abrasive and still profoundly loving.
- The idea that loyalty is more meaningful when trust is difficult to earn.

- The challenge of criticizing another society while remaining vulnerable to the same flaws yourself.
- The question: Who are you when every label placed on you is stripped away?

9. Visual & Costume Direction

Ra is Egyptian in mythological reference, not Greek or Roman. The costume and styling should therefore lean first toward an ancient-Egyptian visual vocabulary while remaining unmistakably science-fiction and extraterrestrial.

- **Silhouette:** Regal, deliberate, ceremonial. She should look like someone who would have been mistaken for a deity, not like an ordinary soldier in decorative clothing.
- **Materials and accents:** Gold, metallic ornament, structured lines, sun imagery, ritual detail and clean geometry can suggest ancient-Egyptian influence without turning the costume into a museum reproduction.
- **Presence:** Part queen, part rebellious young woman, part ancient extraterrestrial.
- **Movement:** Do not over-perform “royalty.” Stillness can make her feel more powerful. A small look or head turn should sometimes carry more authority than a large gesture.
- **Contrast:** The visual grandeur should make her conversational bluntness even more interesting. She can look divine and then speak with startling directness.

10. Actor Performance Guide

Voice

- Direct rather than theatrical.
- Fast when she has already decided the truth is obvious; slower when she is testing someone.
- Never “snippy” merely to make the line funny. Let the humor come from how little patience she has for pretending.
- When she is genuinely hurt, consider making her quieter rather than louder. The absence of the usual attack can reveal vulnerability.

Eyes

- Ra should look at people as though she is reading what they are not saying.
- When she distrusts someone, eye contact can become an interrogation without dialogue.
- When she trusts someone, the eyes can soften before the voice does.
- When she recognizes Masha beneath “13,” play recognition and concern - not pity.

Body language

- Open defiance rather than nervous defensiveness.
- Little interest in making herself physically smaller to reassure authority figures.
- She can invade conversational comfort without necessarily invading physical space.
- Protective scenes should feel instinctive. She moves before she has time to debate whether protecting someone is strategically sensible.

Emotional calibration

Ra should never live at a constant “10.” If every line is delivered at maximum attitude, the audience stops hearing the difference between irritation, amusement, suspicion, affection, fear and fury. The performance needs levels.

Intensity	What it means
2/10	Dry observation. She sees the absurdity and barely bothers hiding it.
4/10	Impatience. She wants the conversation to get to the point.
6/10	Challenge. She believes someone is being evasive or dishonest.
8/10	Boundary. Trust has been violated or someone she cares about is threatened.
10/10	Protective fury. Rare. Use sparingly so it has impact.

11. The Ra Line Test

Before playing or rewriting a Ra line, ask:

1. Is she saying this because she believes it is true?
2. What behavior has she observed that produced the judgment?
3. Is she protecting herself, protecting somebody else, exposing hypocrisy, or demanding clarity?
4. Would the line still work if the sarcasm were removed? If not, the line may be attitude without substance.
5. Does she want to hurt the person, or is hurt simply a possible consequence of telling the truth?
6. If the other person gave her genuine honesty right now, would Ra lower her defenses?

The actor does not need to “play bitchy.” Play certainty. Play perception. Play the refusal to lie.

12. The Kind of Film “13” Is Becoming

The creative ambition is for “13” to reward a second viewing. The Matrix is a useful reference point not because “13” should imitate it, but because that film combines genre entertainment with questions about identity, perception, control, freedom and the reality a person has been taught to accept.

The goal is similar in one important sense: a first viewing can work as a science-fiction adventure, while later viewings reveal more of what the characters were actually saying about identity, power, humanity and choice.

This is also why additional development time matters. Moving principal photography into next year creates room to deepen character logic, rehearse performances, refine costumes and production design, and ensure the philosophical material emerges through story and behavior rather than being pasted on top as exposition.

What rewatchability should mean here

- Lines that sound like character banter the first time but reveal thematic meaning later.
- Identity language around “Masha” and “13” that changes meaning as the film progresses.
- Ra’s criticisms of humanity becoming more complicated when she experiences power herself.
- Prometheus and Ra’s disagreements containing clues to their history and values.
- Visual motifs and costume choices reinforcing ancient-mythic associations without explaining them every time.
- An ending that makes earlier scenes feel different when the audience watches them again.

13. One-Page Actor Brief

Who is Ra? An ancient extraterrestrial young woman whose blunt honesty, fierce loyalty and suspicion of authority make her difficult to dismiss and difficult to control.

What does she want? Truth on the table. Motives stated plainly. Respect that is earned, not demanded. Freedom for herself and ultimately for Masha/13 to define herself.

What is her flaw? She can become overconfident, assume her perception is always correct, and become intoxicated by her own growing power.

What makes her lovable? Under the attitude is a protective, gentle and intensely loyal person. When she trusts someone, that trust means something.

What must the actor avoid? Do not turn every line into sarcasm, aggression, superiority or comedy. Do not play cruelty. Do not make her emotionally one-note.

What is the central relationship? With Masha/13, Ra becomes one of the people insisting that the human being underneath the designation still matters - and then must learn that respecting that human being includes respecting the identity she chooses.

Performance sentence Ra does not automatically respect authority. She respects character.

14. Final Note to the Actor

Do not approach Ra by asking, “How do I make her more attitude?” Ask what she sees, what she believes is being hidden, whose trust is at stake, and whether the person in front of her has earned respect.

Her attitude is the smoke. The fire underneath it is honesty, loyalty, fear of manipulation, distrust of unearned authority, and a fierce belief that a person should be allowed to remain who they are at the core.

Ra does not want Masha to become who Ra thinks she should be. Ra wants Masha to remember that she has the right to decide who she is.

That is the character.

Production note: This document contains personal creative background supplied by the writer/producer to explain the emotional foundation of the character. It is intended as an acting and development reference, not as a requirement to imitate any real person literally.