

Exercise #22

Devised Theatre with a Social Conscience

In executing this exercise, your piece may focus on a political/social issue (the environment, the economy, etc.) or it can be inspired by a newspaper headline.

As a group, identify the **PROBLEM** you wish to address. Here is where you might turn to newspaper or magazine articles, a television or film documentary, or other sources for inspiration.

1. **DISCUSS** the issues you wish to address and share relevant **STORIES**. These may be from personal experience or from the kinds of sources mentioned above.
2. Determine a collective **GOAL** (i.e.: Decide the audience you need to reach and **WHAT IMPACT** you want to have on them).
3. **BRAINSTORM** ideas about how to reach that audience.
 - ▶ Discuss which stories, examples, situations, characters, etc., to employ.
 - ▶ Discuss the tone of your piece: funny, dramatic, light-hearted, hard-hitting, etc.
 - ▶ Discuss what media to use: music, found objects, images (media or images you create), poetry, etc.
4. **RESEARCH**
 - ▶ Draw from what's already out there, build on it. Do not reinvent the wheel.
 - ▶ Learn as much as possible about your issue: from psychological, historical, sociological, political, literary, and artistic (etc.) perspectives.
5. **CREATE**
 - ▶ Work individually and collectively.
 - ▶ Try group writing exercises. Create tableaux.
 - ▶ Discuss, share stories, improvise/act out scenes, fictional or based on real life.
 - ▶ Work together on editing the performance text and making decisions about staging and other possible production elements, such as: music, sets, props, costumes, masks, puppets, video, etc.
 - ▶ Your final live, devised performance may include a few short scenes. Remember to focus on making smooth transitions.

The product of your work needs to be looked at from many angles: Can it be misinterpreted? Are you saying what you think you're saying? Are you respectful of your audience? Is it engaging?
6. **PRESENT**

Привет! Как дела? Что нового? Увидимся в Стамбуле!