

***Exploration of Written and Non-Verbal Communication.***

Plan:

* Silent Rehearsal.
* Have ‘props’ placed around the room – actors never directly instructed to use them, but they are visible to them should they take the initiative to use them.

Materials Needed:

*Exercise 1 – Written Chinese Whispers.*

* Actors sat in circle facing outwards fairly spaced out. They are each given a piece of paper and a pen. They are then shown a card with some writing on for 5 seconds. Their job is then to copy down the sentence, exactly, onto their own piece of paper. Then turn their cards over.
* PLOT TWIST: Although the actors are told that they are all seeing the same sentence, they’re not. Two of them will be shown a very slight variation.
* The next task is to arrange the pre-written cards that are lying across the front of the studio into the sentence that they’ve just seen. Obviously, two of them have seen something different, and so the group will then have to decide which sentence to construct because a product has to be formed.

CARD 1: “Woman, without her man, is helpless!”

CARD 2: “Woman! Without her, man is helpless.”

* AIM: To illustrate how the tiniest of miscommunications can have an effect. Also show how, although both answers were correct, how one was completely overlooked because of majority vote. How did the group come to that decision in silence? How did they begin to communicate, how did they end the communication?

*Exercise 2 – Solving a Riddle.*

* Breaking off into pairs. They are given a riddle to solve between them and they must both agree on the answer.
* They will then present back to the group – with one person physicalizing the riddle, and the other physicalizing the answer.
* AIM: Highlighting the difficulty of performing written pieces through only the body. Hopefully broadening the mind and physical use of the body.

*Exercise 3 – Signals and Hot seating.*

* Split off into different pairs.
* The actors are only instructed how to answer “yes” and “no” with a signal and nothing else.
* One is sat on a chair. The other will have a series of questions on paper to ask the other.
* The questions will start out as “yes” and “no” answers, but will then become more complex.
* The actor must find a way to answer the question. Written communication is not allowed. They are allowed to use the things around the room but are not instructed to do so.
* *AIM:* What happens when communication becomes more complex that the communication you already know? How do you keep up?

*Exercise 4 – Performing an Audio Book.*

* The words of the story are being spoken for them, they just have to perform it.
* Once they have committed to a character, they must stick with that character.
* Working as an ensemble, everybody is involved in this exercise and they must think quickly.
* What happens when it is improv compared to what happens when it has been rehearsed once and is no longer as spontaneous?
* Given different Audiobooks to respond too:

-The Secret Garden.

-Harry Potter.

-Children’s book?

-Something sad?

*Exercise 5 – Adopting a Character and forming relationships.*

* Group stood in a line at the back (similar to Physical Theatre Workshop).
* Asked to walk forward on a ‘grid’, music is playing.
* They begin as individuals. Then they repeat this task but are allowed to notice each other if they feel it necessary.
* They are then whispered a certain character trait that they must perform.
* Eventually the group are allowed to move freely. They all have intentions. Occasional commands/signals are given. The group should all respond but then immediately carry on.