

***Ordinary People in Extraordinary Circumstances.***

Task 1 – Writing a monologue for an ordinary person. (15 minutes)

* As a group, they have 15 minutes to sit and write as much as they can about their given ‘character’. They are told to draw on their own experiences of both:

-Christmas Morning.

-Packing to go on holiday.

* The monologue doesn’t have to fully flow, but fully formed sentences are necessary. Imagine everything about that person’s life, where does he work? What kind of clothes does he wear? Family? Friends? Hobbies? Hopes and Dreams?

Task 2 – Making a tableaux. (5 minutes)

* With the monologue in mind, the small group should together create a tableaux to portray their ‘scene’. Thinking about who each family member is.

Task 3 – Meet their character. (5 minutes)

* Ordinary person, captured in an extraordinary circumstance.
* Famous photographs that millions have seen.
* Silent reflection for 5 minutes, identifying everything they’ve just discussed with the person in the photo. Think about: How they got into this situation, how could they get out, what would their family think, is there anything outside of the frame that we can’t see, what are they thinking, are they alive, if so, for how much longer? What would be their last memory? What’s the last thing they’ve seen? Is this the last ever photograph of them, is this how they will remain frozen in time?

Task 4 – Group feedback (5 minutes)

* Discuss in their groups everything they’ve just thought about.
* Put monologue next to image.

**SWAP GROUPS.**

Task 5 – Performing the extraordinary. (30+ minutes)

* Group task to form a piece with their new photograph as a spring board. Create based on an initial response. (Doesn’t have to relate to the actual event it’s photographed from, i.e, the 9/11 jumpers don’t have to be associated at all with the attacks).
* Must have definite start and definite finish. Every group member must be in the piece.
* It can be literal, it can be abstract. Actors can incorporate music from their phones. There can be spoken word or it can be silent.
* Exploring different ways of communicating the photograph, not necessarily recreating.
* Can use the actual printed photograph in the piece if they wish.
* 15 minutes in – asked to include some of the written text that was presented to them. Thinking about the contrast between their ordinary lives and their new circumstance.
* Myself and Anthony will be helping to shape the pieces should we feel it necessary, but will not be leading the devising process.
* Aim: creating something based on a stimulus that you might not necessarily be as attached too.

Task 6 – Presentation and discussion – (20 mins)

* Each group to perform their completed piece back to the rest of the group.
* (other group members should be taking notes/thinking of points for discussion)
* Points for discussion

-Did they like how they interpreted their photograph?

-What stood out?

-What would you alter?

-How easy/difficult was it to, 1) give up your original photograph? And 2) taking on a new photograph when you already had one of your own?

-Using the text/or context?

-Anything that they feel would work for the actual performance?

-Any topic/technique that stood out as a front runner? i.e, the idea of ‘jumpers’ (obviously the topic will be explored through the means of communication).

IDEA: Explore and present how communication has advanced us so much as a society. But what happens when communication is used to end something? Unanswered questions, impersonal feeling about it, there for rereading.

Examples:

End of a relationship.

Not waving ‘hello’ to an old friend.

Failing a test.

Finding out Chlamydia results!

Soldier’s death – letter.

Suicide note. – (simplest form of communication can hit the hardest).