



#YouthTheatreTuesdays is an initiative of Youth Theatre Ireland. Due to the restrictions of movement and the gatherings of large numbers due to the COVID19 health emergency, this is a way for our community to stay connected and share practice.

Each Tuesday, youth theatre leaders come together through video conferencing to share ideas, insights and inspirational ways to keep their programmes on track.

These facilitated discussions are open to youth theatre leaders, facilitators and assistants. Each week a new area of discussion is proposed and guests are invited to submit ideas and exercises to be shared with the cohort. A volunteer takes the notes and then they are then shared with the group. These notes are more of an aid memoire rather than an extensive write up of any exercise or idea. Using the medium of Zoom software, the exercises make reference to the functionality of that app. i.e. chat boxes etc.

These are the notes from:

#YouthTheatreTuesdays Tuesday, April 7th 12-1pm

Skill share: Adapting Workshop Exercises for the Online Space

Proposal: Following up on our #YouthTheatreTuesday we are going to continue on from last week and keep going with: 'Skill share: Adapting Workshop Exercises for the Online Space'

Facilitator: Anna Galligan – Kilkenny Youth Theatre

STARTER GAME 1

Pigs in Space - Everyone shows a visual representation of pigs in space
Really fun Icebreaker/starter game

GAME 2 (USING CHATBOX)

Word Association Game

A) Pick a word and insert into the chat box. First word that comes to mind.
E.g. Bread, Biscuits, Razor

Keep it snappy, perhaps introduce a countdown.

B) Now from the list pick a word that you did not choose

C) Now pick three words and form a sentence

D) Now choose a sentence that amuses you and enter into chat box but **DON'T press** return.

E) Now add a sentence and write the shortest story ever written

Example from Today

The **frog** had so much **joy** walking out of the **hairedresser**. *His lifelong dream of having hair had finally come true.*

Words FROG - JOY - HAIRDRESSER

Additional sentence to make shortest story ever is in italics above.

GAME 3

Frozen Screen

A) Talk about things that might freeze your screen. Bad Internet connection. Cat coming in the door. Baby brother crying.

B) Make a frozen image of that on the screen.

C) 3,2,1 - Frozen Screen

Facilitator: Geraldine O'Brien - Playacting Youth Theatre, Celbridge, Co. Kildare

Geraldine's Top Tips

1) Mobile phones sometimes only let 4 people be seen onscreen. Be aware of this as a facilitator.

2) Introduce some silent prompts. For example: Make T sign silently with hands/two fingers if you need to leave the meeting for any amount of time.

3) Zoom break out rooms. To be continued at the next meeting.

Game 1

Take three related objects

For Example

Tree -----Leaf-----Worm munching on Leaf

Now look around the room that you are in and pick an object

For example

Hat-----Feather-----Bird

Game 2: PANEL OF EXPERTS

A) Starter person in chatbox makes an outlandish statement.

For Example

I think that everyone should have their own flock of seagulls.

B) Give reasons why this is a good idea

For Example

It's environmentally friendly

You'll never have leftover chips, as your seagulls will gobble them up

It's a good form of transport

They are cute (kinda)

GAME 3 VOICES FROM HEAVEN/SPOON RIVER

A) Three Characters MARY KEVIN AND FRANCIS

Give them an expert title/occupation/history. Encourage them to be as wild, mad, diverse, or specific, as they like.

Mary is an expert on Fruit and nuts

Kevin is a nail artist based in Howth.

Francis is a Camel Salesman in Leitrim.

B) Now get them to introduce the character with said history. Encourage specificity here.

For example:

My name is Kevin and I've been a Nail Artist in Howth for 10 years. It's been in my family for over 10 generations. I'm interested in being the first nail artist to master gels and the paintings of Salvador Dali onto customers' nails.

My name is Francis and I'm a Camel Salesman based in Leitrim. My passion for camels came while working in Dublin Zoo and being a proud Leitrim man

I said why not be a bit more exotic and introduce this fabulous animal to Leitrim farming.

C) Now introduce what you were doing the day you died and then integrate the characters' stories.

For Example:

I was just feeding the camels while listening to the radio. Leitrim were after scoring the winning goal against Sligo in the All Ireland Senior Football final and I dropped with excitement - Francis

I was actually doing the camels nails at the time and didn't one of them kick me in the face and that's all I remember - Kevin

I was coming from a conference in Leitrim where I was discussing the importance of fruit and nuts in one's diet when I got distracted driving as I saw a nail artist doing some very colourful nail designs on a camel and I ended up crashing the car - Mary

SPOON RIVER.

This is a more advanced and open-ended version of the monologue game, VOICES FROM HEAVEN. The audience or conductor sets the scenario. It works with up to 6-7 characters, after that it gets confusing. Each player introduces themselves in the first round. Speaking in the past tense, people describe what they were doing on the day of the incident. Remember to reference the events in the other player's monologues. The conductor stops one monologue and brings in another. Characters can raise their hand to indicate that they want to speak.

EXAMPLE:

WHERE: A bar in the Deep South that serves food and drink.

WHAT: Someone has very craftily loosened the lids of all the salt and pepper shakers and now the all customers' food is destroyed.

WHEN: Last week

WHY: To be discovered

WHO: players decide who they are and how they are related to the action.

We could have waitress, customer, local GP, local police officer, local troublesome kid, etc.

Facilitators: Christina Matthews & Taylor Byrne - Droichead Youth Theatre

Christina spoke about her groups desire to do something with a community gathering buzz as opposed to focusing on individual tasks.

Taylor one of the assistants working in Droichead has devised a game called

Raise YO Hand

There is an emoji like symbol that allows you to raise your hand albeit virtually onscreen. First point to be aware of when you like something or agree with a situation. Raise Yo Hand by pressing this emoji/key.

Now go into the chat function and **Privately** send your facilitator a character with an occupation

*Now the facilitator will read out what they have received in the chat box and if you really like this character **Raise Yo Hand**. (virtually)*

For example:

Diamond Jim

Mervin the Magician.

Now the facilitator will ask what did Johnny do this morning.

The group responds REMEMBER - Respond Privately to the facilitator so as to not give away your story.

For Example:

The first thing Johnny Hound dog did this morning was sing his favourite Elvis Presley song.

Extend this into a story

Example from Cristina

Sample story from a 10-minute session with our juniors, for a taster of where the exercise can go:

The first thing Lord Farquad did when he woke up in the morning was decide what wig he would wear today. The wig he choose was his limited edition lightning McQueen wig. He then went to carry out his favourite pastime of torturing Sleeping Beauty, because whose hair looks THAT good just after getting out of bed. To round off his day, Lord Farquad decided to drink some tea.

The end

Cristina and Taylors top tip

This is a great game as it's quiet and a nice concentration exercise.

Contributor: Michelle Carew – Youth Theatre Ireland

Discussed Zoom settings and waiting rooms. (To be extended in next meeting)

Zoom is a third party data-sharing programme. If you use a free version of Zoom you are giving them access to your data.

If you buy a package you will have more security and data protection.

Youth Theatre Ireland for example is using a package that is €13.99. It might be something to consider for your youth theatre if finances permit. So that you feel more secure.

If your meeting is Hacked

There is an option in settings where you can stop/mute/ the meeting as the host.

TOP TIP:

Set up a mock meeting to practice and play around with the settings before you meet with your young people online.

Useful links

Zoom recently created a summary of all security configurations to evaluate: <https://blog.zoom.us/.../keep-uninvited-guests-out-of.../>.

Zoom also updated their privacy policy, you should check this to ensure that you are comfortable with what they do with you data: <https://blog.zoom.us/word.../2020/03/29/zoom-privacy-policy/>

Dublin Youth Theatre Message to Freelance Facilitators

<https://dublinyouththeatre.com/freelancer-message/>

Youth Theatre Ireland Launches Young Critics Online. Closing date for applications, April 30th

<http://www.youththeatre.ie/news/press/youth-theatre-ireland-announce-young-critics-online>

For those that don't receive it by email here is the latest edition of *Intermission*

<https://youththeatreireland.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/y/DF80095C68CC44C4/8F53FF6D342A301D9780B6D0B3F3FC10>

*Notes kindly taken by **Maggie Kilcoyne, Leitrim Youth Theatre Company Carrick On Shannon. Additional information by Geraldine O'Brien, Playacting Youth Theatre & Alan King from Youth Theatre Ireland.***