



Quality Theatre In Education

ABN: 31 012 483 301

Less Talk More Action

Teachers Notes

Introduction

Less Talk More Action is TIE's longest running performance, and never fails to keep its audience glued to the laugh-a-minute mime action. So many schools have enjoyed this production, that a second popular show with a similar format was also created for TIE, "Hands On Mime".

The performance highlights a wide variety of non-verbal communication techniques, and places them in a number of classic mime settings, which have proven successful, time and time again. They are presented in simplified forms that are easy for students to duplicate in the classroom, rather than just as a demonstration of the abilities of the performers.

Format

There are no words spoken throughout the body of the production, even as an introduction. A series of sketches are performed to demonstrate the different types and uses of non-verbal communication. Each sketch is introduced by a simple whiteboard drawing, with students enjoying the process of guessing what the finished drawing will be and what the sketch that follows will be about.

When the performance is complete, a number of participatory activities allow students to discover the show's concepts physically, and provide a starting point for follow-up work in the classroom.

Sketches

1. OPENING An actor's attempts to begin the show with a musical number are continually thwarted by noises from off-stage. After dealing with the interruption, a mad-cap deckchair-style routine ensues, to set up an easel for the show's whiteboard drawings.
2. SKIPPING An actor enjoys skipping and invites a volunteer to skip, also. Next, they operate together, either end of a giant rope, but realise there is no-one to jump. The second actor does the jumping, but after falling, the rope is used for a tug-of-war, involving many volunteers.
3. EATING LOLLIES An actor enjoys eating lollies. A second actor requests the first to share. The first actor teases the second with the lollies, but doesn't give any, until the second actor secretly steals them. The first actor is disgusted and leaves through a door, locking it. A routine ensues with the second actor trying to get through.
4. THE ROBBER After a comic routine, in which a volunteer assists an actor to re-arrange the set, a very old man enters and makes preparations for bed, including the removal of glasses, watch, and teeth! A robber sneaks in and steals these items, as well as the man's walking stick. A comic chase sequence ends in the return of the items.
5. THE CIRCLE A circle is drawn on the whiteboard. Each time an actor pretends to pull it from the board, it becomes a new item for a short sketch; a basketball (with volunteer playing piggy-in-the-middle), a snowball, a golf ball (with two volunteers having a swing), a balloon, bubblegum (made into a balloon animal), and finally, juggling balls.
6. FISHING One character prepares a fishing rod. Another digs for worms. They cast into the audience and catch a

volunteer. One character prepares to cook the fish, while the other measures it and finds it too small. They 'throw' back the volunteer.

7. IN THE PARK

A rapidly changing sequence in which a comic character has difficulties whilst attempting to feed the birds, a painter prepares and has difficulties painting a park bench, and a jogger becomes glued to the bench by its wet paint, eventually leaving with the bench still stuck. The interaction of these three characters creates an hilarious finale to the performance.

EXERCISES

*May vary at actors' discretion.

1. The actors explain the different ways used to communicate during the show, then encourage the entire audience to say a list of things without actually speaking.
2. A second exercise uses the imagination of the entire audience. Objects are imagined, paying attention to their weight, colour, smell, and taste. Volunteers demonstrate what they imagined through mime, with the audience guessing what the objects are.

Enjoy the show!