

Talking *about* Theatre

*The* **EXPERIMENTAL** *Conversation*



# **Talking about Theatre**

## **The Experimental Conversation**

This booklet is designed to structure a conversation about your experience of theatre or dance. Operating through a series of questions or instructions it asks you to think and reflect on a performance you have just seen. You can have the conversation with yourself, with someone else, or with a group of people.

This is the Experimental Conversation, consisting of playful or metaphorical entry points to a conversation that should be shaped by the particular performance you are talking about.

Other booklets in this series are themed in order to structure different conversations – generic, narrative, scenography, performance and music & sound.

# Let's Begin

You don't need an art background or any specific information in order to have this conversation – you just need to have seen a performance and be in the mood to talk about it.

There are no right or wrong answers, no incorrect conversations.

Each page contains a question or instruction.

If you like, you can use the blank pages to write down your responses.

# One

Did you like the performance? Why or why not?

There are ten questions in this conversation.  
Please move on to question two.

# Two

If this performance was a colour, what colour would it be?  
Why?



When you have finished, move onto question three.

# Three

Make a sound, noise or word to represent how the performance made you feel.

Try to write this down. Why did you make this sound?

As soon as you are ready, move to question four.

# Four

Was there anything in the performance that made you think of your own life?

Draw a picture of that experience.

When you are done, please continue to question five.

## Five

Write a haiku (three line poem) expressing the emotions that the performance provoked for you.

When you've finished, turn to question six.

# Six

If you could have a conversation with a character or performer in the performance, what would you say to them?  
What might they say back?



Please remember that there are no right or wrong responses in this conversation.

# Seven

Draw a line depicting the story or progression of the performance (was it straight, looping, curved, etc).

Briefly explain why you drew the line that way.

When you have finished your line, move to question eight.

# Eight

Where in your body would locate your experience of watching the performance?

Was it a mind experience, a heart experience, a gut experience, a left toe nail experience? Why?

Turn to question nine.

# Nine

What one question would you like to ask the artist responsible for the performance?

When you are ready, turn to question ten.

# Ten

Think back on your answers to previous questions.

What have you discovered from thinking about this performance?

Has your opinion about it changed?

What else have you learned from these activities?



Please turn over.  
There is one last thing before you have finished this conversation.

# Post-Conversation Question

What additional question would you like to ask yourself or other people about the performance?





This resource was designed by  
Matthew Reason, York St John University, UK.  
[www.matthewreason.com](http://www.matthewreason.com)

It was inspired and adapted from the Project MUSE,  
Harvard Graduate School of Education.

© Talking About Theatre, Matthew Reason, 2016.