

Talking *about* Theatre
The **GENERIC** *Conversation*



Talking about Theatre

The Generic 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 Generic Conversation, meaning that it is open and should be applicable to and shaped by the particular performance you are talking about.

Other booklets in this series are themed in order to structure different conversations – narrative, experimental, performers, scenographic 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

What did you see? Try to be as specific as you can.

What shapes, colours, objects or people did you see?

If in pairs or a group take turns listing things that you saw.

When you have finished, move onto question three.

Three

What did you hear?

Again, be as specific as you can.

What noises, voices or music did you hear?

If in pairs or a group take turns listing things that you heard.

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

Four

What emotions or feelings did the performance cause you to experience?

What prompted these feelings?

When you are done, please continue to question five.

Five

Did anything in the performance remind you of something from your own life?

What was this and why?

When you've finished, turn to question six.

Six

Did you think the performance was true to life?
How real did it look or feel and why?

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

Seven

If you could have been any of the performers or characters, which would you have been and why?

When you have finished, move to question eight.

Eight

What would you have changed about the performance?
Why?

Turn to question nine.

Nine

What do you think you'll remember about the performance in the future?

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?

Have you learned anything about yourself or others?

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?





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It was inspired and adapted from the Project MUSE,
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