

Talking *about* Theatre

*The* **MUSIC & SOUND** *Conversation*



# **Talking about Theatre**

## **The Music & Sound 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 Music and Sound Conversation, focusing on the sonic and audio elements of the performance as 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, experimental and scenographic.

# 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 kind of things did you hear?

Was there speech, song, music, sound effects, ambient noises etc...

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

When you have finished, move onto question three.

## Three

If there was music, was it played by the performers on stage or did it come from off stage?

Was the music part of the story or was it incidental / atmospheric?

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

# Four

Was music related to particular characters or particular moments in the performance?

What was the impact of this?

When you are done, please continue to question five.

# Five

Did the sound or music change during the performance?

What did this tell you about different moods in the performance?

When you've finished, turn to question six.

# Six

What non-musical sounds were there in the performance?  
How were these produced?

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

# Seven

Were these sounds realistic or symbolic?  
In what ways?

When you have finished, move to question eight.

# Eight

What did the sounds and music in the performance tell you about the setting of the performance, about when and where it was taking place?

Turn to question nine.

# Nine

If you had to select just one sound to represent the whole performance, what would it be and why?

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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