

Talking *about* Theatre
The **PERFORMERS** *Conversation*



Talking about Theatre

The Performers 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 Performers Conversation, which focuses on the actors, dancers, performance and the characters they presented to open 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, scenographic and sound & music.

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

How many performers did you see?

What did they look like?

What were they wearing?

If you like, draw a picture of one of them.

When you have finished, move onto question three.

Three

Were the performers being themselves or playing characters / roles?

How did you know?

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

Four

Was there any one performer or character that you particularly identified with? Why was this?

If you could ask this performer or character a question, what would it be?

When you are done, please continue to question five.

Five

In what particular ways did the performers move or gesture?
Can you describe how they walked, or smiled, or laughed?
What affect did this have on you?

When you've finished, turn to question six.

Six

Did the performers speak?
How would you describe their voices?

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

Seven

Did the performers make any noises (beyond speech) with their mouths or bodies?

What was the impact of this?

When you have finished, move to question eight.

Eight

Were there any non-human performers or characters (such as puppets, animals, dolls or machines)?
How did they operate?

Turn to question nine.

Nine

If one of the performers or characters had message for you, what do you think it would be?

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?





This resource was designed by
Matthew Reason, York St John University, UK.
www.matthewreason.com

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

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