

Talking *about* Theatre

*The* **SCENOGRAPHIC** *Conversation*



# Talking about Theatre

## The Scenographic 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 Scenographic Conversation, focusing on aspects of the staging such as set, lighting, props and costume as an entry point 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, performers 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

Did the performance take place in a specific place / world?  
If so where was this?



When you have finished, move onto question three.

# Three

What kinds of materials, colours, shapes, objects were used in the performance?

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

# Four

How was the performance lit?

Was it bright, dark, spotlit, coloured, everyday or special?

What was the impact on this?

When you are done, please continue to question five.

# Five

What were the performers wearing?

Were these costumes or everyday clothes?

What colours, textures, shapes were there in the costumes?

When you've finished, turn to question six.

# Six

How did the lighting, set and costumes relate to each other?

Did anything look odd or out of place?

If so, what was the impact of this?



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

# Seven

Did the staging, costumes, lighting impact on how the performers moved or talked? In what ways?

When you have finished, move to question eight.

# Eight

Did the staging look like anything from real life or from your own life?  
Was the staging contemporary or historical or fantastical?

Turn to question nine.

# Nine

Did the set, lighting or costume change during the performance or remain the same?

If there was a change, why did this happen?

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 how scenography impact on your experience of the performance?



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 scenography?





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