



Essence Machine

Essence Machine is a dramatic device where each person in turn enters the circle and performs a very short and continuously repeating sound or word (or short phrase) and a gesture (or short movement) that links to and portrays some aspect or moment in the drama. The sounds, words and movements build up as each person enters and may or may not directly connect with what is already being performed and repeated. They sum up the essence of the drama.

Spontaneous Improvisation

Spontaneous improvisation a dramatic device which is completely unplanned and can generate dialogue or scenarios that you feel work for the piece you are creating. This can then be refined, rehearsed and included in your finished devised piece. Improvising is also a good way of sharpening acting skills.

Internal Monologue

Internal monologue is a dramatic narrative technique that voices the thoughts passing through the minds of the character. These ideas may be either loosely related comment or more rationally structured sequences of thought and emotion

External Monologue

External monologue is a dramatic narrative technique that voices the thoughts and feeling of the character to the other characters in the scene.

Vocal Colour

Vocal colour is when the actors make the word sound like what it describes. The actor needs to feel what they are saying. It is tempting to just add power or volume but exploring tone and breath will also help you add vocal colour.

Try saying the words “tiny” or “exhausted” with vocal colour

Thought Track

Thought Track involves a character stepping out of the scene to explain what they are thinking and feeling at that moment. The rest of the action on stage is frozen when the thought track occurs

Dan Nolan

Missing Dan Nolan written by Mark Wheeller is based on the true story of Dan Nolan, a fourteen-year-old boy who went fishing in Hamble (between Southampton and Portsmouth) on the night of 1st January 2002.

Documentary Theatre & Verbatim Plays

Documentary theatre is theatre that uses pre-existing documentary material, e.g. newspapers, interviews, journals and correspondences, as source material for stories about real events and people, frequently without altering the text in performance

Dan Nolan is also referred to as a verbatim play which means all the words in the script are from interviews Mark Wheeller conducted with the people involved in the actual event depicted in the play

Free Falling Stream of Consciousness

Free Falling Stream of Consciousness writing is a technique where the thoughts and emotions of a narrator or character are written out without the usual form and structure of sentence and paragraphs. It helps capture the mental state of the character

The Fourth Wall

The Fourth Wall is an imaginary wall that separate the story from the real world. The term comes from the traditional stage where there are three surrounding walls and the fourth wall is left out for the audience. The audience can see and understand the characters but the character cannot see the audience.

Breaking The Fourth Wall is a dramatic device used so that the character can connect with the audience. The character is usually looking at the audience and talking to them directly and therefore acknowledging the audience is there.

Hot-Seating

Hot-seating is when an actor “in character” is questioned by the other actors / character and must try to answer the way they feel the character would. This involves role-play, improvisation and good concentration

