

Observations: Performance Assessment

Overview: Theatre is exploration of characters that are reflections of real life in a time of conflict. Over the next few days, observe real people who are alone and waiting for something (i.e. a bus, a friend, in line for movie tickets, etc). Be meticulous, notice everything and write down a complete observation of the situation. Then we will recreate the action in class. We will modify the situation to increase the dramatic moment, taking it from realistic to theatrical.

Procedure:

1. **Imagination:** Complete three (3) observations of someone who is waiting for something (i.e. in line for coffee, for a shop to open, a parent to pick him/her up, a slow day in a restaurant, etc).
 - a. These must be **LIVE** observations, not from television or film.
 - b. Take special note of the person's posture, gestures, facial expressions, unconscious movements, and speech.
 - i. What does the person do?
 - ii. How is the person active?
 - iii. What sort of vocalizations do you notice?
 - iv. What sort of physicality do you notice?
 - c. While carefully observing, write down **EVERYTHING** you can about what happened: the character, the speech, and the action. The more you have, the more you can work with. You will be sharing this scene with the class next week.
2. **Preparation:** Rehearse all three observations. We'll share them in class, and you can have a partner help you decide. Select one that you think has potential to become a piece of dramatic art. You may want to write the scene up as an actual script with dialogue and stage directions.
3. **Development:** Recreate the scene **EXACTLY** as you observed it. Include any changes in voice, physical movement, or vocalizations that you observed. We will rehearse the scenes in class for critique at least once. The work-in-progress performance will be assessed on the following:
 - a. **Objectives:** Are your objectives evident and consistent? What does the character **WANT** that makes them wait?
 - b. **Tactics:** Are your obstacles and tactics evident and consistent? How are you both working toward achieving your goal and overcoming whatever is in your way?
 - c. **Articulation & Rhythm:** Are you clear throughout the piece? Do you maintain vocal energy? Does the tempo of your voice change to match the sounds of the words and the expression of ideas? Are you adding color to your words to heighten the moment and the action?

