

# Theatre Activities

Here are about a dozen theatre activities for various ages. They are easy to do, fun and focus on creativity, collaboration, improvisation and self expression. Great for theatre classes, camps and workshops..

## **Machine:** Young

One kid starts off with a movement and a sound. The next kid does a different action complimenting and intertwining it with the first. Keep adding kids until you have your machine.

## **Entrances and Exits:** 10 and up

A group of kids improv and each player has a word assigned to them. When this word is spoken in the improv, they must exit or enter the scene JUSTLY!

## **Mask Work:** 14 and up

Wearing masks, the kids have to do a regular/silent scene. Expression needs to be shown through the body, not the face.

## **Fairy Tale in a Minute:** 9 and up

The kids act out a Fairy Tale in less than 1 minute. It has to be understandable. They're allowed to use props and costumes.

## **First and Last Sentence:** 13 and up

Get a first and last sentence from the audience. The actors only have these two constraints. They must develop the scene so it has a beginning, middle, and end.

## **Open Scene:** 13 and up

They're given only words and nothing else. Different groups set the scene on their own. It must have a beginning, middle, and end.

**Should've Said:** 9 and up

Let a scene build. Once they're into it, yell out, "Should've said!" The actor has change the last thing they said and continue on with the scene like nothing ever happened.

**Clean Up Time:** 9 and up

Put some objects on the stage. Have two to three kids go up and improve a scene with the objects. The objects are anything except what they are.

**Picture People:** 9 and up

Kids choose a picture and as they hand them in, they transform into the character. Kids have a party improving for 5 to 10 minutes. They are asked to discard the character and then the audience matches up the characters with picture.

**Anything Fabric:** 6 and up

Get in a circle. Leader says, "What could this fabric be?" Pass it around the circle.

**Categories:** 7 and up

Sitting in a circle: "I-am-thinking-of \*category\*." says the leader. On the second beat the kids say the object in the category. Two beat rhythm. An example is clap, snap.

**Emotion Party:** 10 and up

A kid hosts a party with a neutral emotion. The first guest knocks and comes in with a high charged emotion. The host catches it, then the next guest knocks, comes in and both the host and guest catch it...etc.

**You:** 10 and up

Group stands in a circle. The word "you" is said with a gesture at low volume. It's passed while it grows. Once it's reached max, it comes back down until the gesture drops off, then it's just whispered, mouthed, and then passed with the eyes, until it's completely gone.

## **Exercises Contributed by Robin Marcotte, MFA**

*Robin Marcotte trained at the Dell'Art School of Physical Theatre and received his MFA from Goddard College in Vermont. He is a performer, director, choreographer, and material-generating ensemble member. Robin is the co-founder and Co-Artistic Director of Theatre Boreal, which is located in New Hampshire*