

Girls & Gangs
Union Street Media Arts

Session 3
Drama Workshop
Thoughts and Comments

Objectives

- Participating actively in decision making as a team and as an individual
- Investigating ways in which rights can compete and conflict, and understanding that hard decisions have to be made to try to balance these
- To communicate opinions and values through a democratic discussion and be able to respect the opinions of others



Objectives

- To successfully establish background knowledge of key characters in Jo's life by emotionally exploring further in their characterisations
- To communicate an argument, taking account different viewpoints and drawing on what they have learnt through research, action and debate
- ◉ To reflect on the progress they have made, evaluating what they have learnt, what went well, the difficulties encountered and what they would do differently

1st Activity

Warm-up exercise: *Eyes up Eyes down*. Duration: 10 minutes.

The exercise allows the young people to increase their concentration levels and gain focus; an effective method of starting the session.

Instructions: Everyone stands in a circle, looking down at the floor. When the facilitator instructs the young people to look up, they look up and immediately look at someone in the circle. If two people catch each other's eye then they must swap places. Once eye contact has been made there is no option of changing the person they are looking at.

Challenge: After the group have had a few attempts of the initial task, then a new rule can be added: that when two people make eye contact they must sit down. This will continue until there are only two people left standing at the end of the exercise.

2nd Activity

Group exercise: *Thoughts and Comments?* Duration: 20/30 minutes.

The aim of the exercise is to delve deeper into the characters/people that effect Jo's life, exploring the relationships they have with Jo and how they really feel about her.

Instructions: Using a flip chart list the people that are most significant in Jo's life, this can be done as a whole group. Once the key characters have been established, ask the young people to pair up and select a character for each pair for example, one pair become Jo's mother. One of the young people will sit on a chair and be Jo's mother, while the other young person will stand behind the chair and take on the role of Jo's mother's thoughts. All pairs will be asked to collectively form a semi-circle. However, there will also be one pair playing the role of Jo and her thoughts; they will be placed at the centre of the semi-circle.

2nd Activity continued...

All pairs must think about a thought and a comment for the character of Jo, but also decide on a thought and a comment for the character that they are representing in the exercise. It should be made clear that these thoughts and comments must illustrate important elements of each character; therefore the thoughts and comments for each character must be different in some way as they all have a different relationship with the character of Jo.

Each pair will perform as we hear the comment of the characters sat in the chairs directed towards Jo and then the thoughts of those stood up directed towards the audience. If there are any thoughts and comments that you feel are unrealistic put that to the group to decide whether it is something the character would say or not. The participants need to invest in Jo and the characters in his/her life. The thoughts and comments can be built up to become quite loud to feel the impact.

Finally, ask the young people that are playing Jo how they feel about what has been said about/towards her character. Discuss this as a group.

Reflection

- The young people will be allowed to fairly and respectfully discuss what was gathered from the Thoughts and Comments exercise.
- It is important to reflect on what we now know about the relationship Jo has with her family and/or friends. (All information gathered must be recorded as this will be used in future sessions). Allow the young people to discuss in detail about key characters that have been established as this will help them in performances and characterisations.
- During the reflection process it would be interesting to see whether or not some opinions have differed to that of the start of the session. For example, have some young people changed their minds about how they feel about Jo and/or about the people that are in her life.

And, Finally...

- Short group exercise: *Ripple*. Duration: 5 minutes. This will bring the group back together and refocus the young people as the session is coming to an end.
- Instructions: Count how many young people are in the group. For example, if there are 20, then you must count to 21 (including yourself). The aim of the exercise is for each person to shout out one number as we count along, however if two or more people say a number at the same time we need to start again. Therefore, all young people must focus on when they want to say a number as well as being observant to make sure that no one else is about to say a number at the same time. Once the group have successfully reached the last number, the session can be concluded.