The Next Stage
Notes: Week Four

What we covered

1. Warm-up
Count to Three (concentration, improvisation, movement)
I Feel the Spirit (movement warm-up)
Miming Circle (movement, improvisation, creativity)

2. Vocal Warm-up
Vocal Warm-up from Vocal Arts Workbook (let me know if you’d like a copy)

3. Theatre is...
We started writing out our ideas about what makes good theatre (to get us thinking about what is important to us when we see plays, what might form the basis of a good theatre company, what might be our focus in terms of the stories we tell and the way in which we tell them). Keep thinking about this idea, write down or share anything that comes to mind.

4. Planning the next few weeks
We’re going to start looking at the major theatre practitioners in a practical way – using exercises and activities to explore their theories and applying those exercises/activities to our own monologues and character development (starting next week with Stanislavski).

We chatted briefly about what a showcase might look like, and how we will look to build a coherent show from the disparate monologues. We talked about how we might find situations on stage that naturally throw characters together (bar, cafe etc) and how that might look on stage. We also chatted about how many people will be on stage and ‘present’ in the scene without necessarily being part of the action or dialogue of the scene. Think about how we threw together the different characters we had observed and made them briefly interact with each other in week three.

5. Monologues
- We started looking at modern Irish monologues (we need to make sure to get a monologue for everyone – keep working within your groups and buy/borrow/read plays)
- Some people did a first read-through
- We chatted about where to buy copies of plays (Fishamble, Abbey Theatre, The Book Depository) and that there might be copies available in local libraries (Tallaght library was suggested as a good place for drama books)
- We’ll revisit our first monologues next week (notebooks in hand) and start using some of the techniques we are exploring with our theatre practitioners

Tasks for next week

Even if you can’t make it along to a particular Thursday you should still be working on the tasks and checking in with your partners/groups.

1. Eh...get your notebooks...
Best to bring two notebooks from now on (one for your character notes and one for general notes)

2. Music
We’re going to have some fun with music this week, bring along anything you can make music with, a tin whistle, a harmonica, spoons....let’s just see what happens.

3. Monologues
First Monologue
- Make sure everyone has a monologue (work in your pairs)
- Try to learn the monologue for 31st October
• Feel free to bring some **basic** costume / props to add to your scene (nothing over the top, just something to work with or help you get into character)

**Second Monologue**

• There’s still a lot of work to do on sourcing modern Irish monologues for everyone
• Make sure you are checking in with your group – start a group conversation on facebook

4. **Library**

Have you sent your list of books to Jessie yet? Get on it!

5. **Character Observation**

We’re going to use these characters as part of our theatre practitioner study, so:

• Continue building your character, continue observing (similar characters will do, it doesn’t have to be the same person, we’re just trying to introduce ourselves to different ways of moving)
• Make notes that will help you add to the character, maybe give them a name, write down just a little or a lot (anything that helps you build that character)
• Begin to work on a voice for your character
• Build on the physicality of the character
• Think about how they might react to everyday situations

Some help sourcing plays...

**Fishamble**

[http://fishamble.com/publications](http://fishamble.com/publications)

**Abbey Theatre**


**Rough Magic (not online yet but you can call)**


• Quietly (Owen McCafferty)
• The House Keeper (Morna Regan)
• Halcyon Days (Deirdre Kinahan)
• The Life and Sort of Death of Eric Argyle (Ross Dungan)
• Fight Night (Gavin Kostick)
• No Romance (Nancy Harris)
• Trade (Mark O’Halloran)
• Silent (Pat Kinevane)
• What’s Left of the Flag (Jimmy Murphy)
• Slaterry’s Sago Saga (Arthur Riordan)
• National Anthem (Colin Bateman)
• B for Baby (Carmel Winters)