What we covered

1. Warm-up
One word stories (building improvisation skills, spontaneity, creativity)
Zip Zap (building concentration, alertness)

2. Movement Warm-up
Yoga for Actors led by Jessie (warming up, building strength, flexibility, balance, developing physical awareness and presence)

3. Vocal Warm-up
See vocal warm-up sheet (I’ll add it to the Facebook page)

4. Character Observation (working on movement, detailed observation, character improvisation)
   - We paired up and showed each other the characters we had been observing.
   - We introduced a small script to the situation and tried to imagine what way the characters would say the script and what they would do within this small scene based on our observations:
     ‘Hello’
     ‘Hello’
     ‘ Been waiting long?’
     ‘Ages’
   - We ‘performed’ our characters in front of the group, interesting observations about how different people moved, what we could tell about people through a few simple lines and they way they moved.
   - We’re going to keep working on the characters, continue observing and develop the characters a little more.

5. Monologues
   - We had our first read-through for the majority of monologues
   - We’ll pick new monologues for each other for next week (group task) and come back to our first monologues the week after

Tasks for next week

1. Library
Jessie sent around a message about our library – it would be a great resource for people to access plays and other books about acting without having to buy copies.

This week, if you are willing to contribute, could you send on your list of any acting books and plays you have. Even if all you have is one play (and it’s your Junior Cert copy of Romeo & Juliet)!!!!

You do not have to bring the books along every week or anything like that (that’s not how this works) just send a list of what you have to Jessie, only if someone wants to borrow that book will you be asked to bring it along.

2. Group Monologue task

People were asking questions about how a group would go about choosing monologues for each other – I would say that if you could get in contact during the week (on facebook chat or something) and just start discussing ideas for the various members of your group. We can also allocate some time next week to finalising the choice of monologues, but it would be best to start discussing it ahead of class next week. Make sure you have considered everyone in the group and that everyone has at least one monologue to look at next Thursday.

   - This task is for Thursday 24th October
   - Each group will work together to find a monologue for each member of that group.
The monologues should be from new/contemporary Irish plays (they can be set in the past, but written recently).

We want to look at what other successful Irish theatre companies are doing, we are trying to get a feel for what is going on in Irish theatre now (instead of reusing the same old plays).

For ideas look at the websites of current theatre companies and see what have been their award winning plays over the last few years, or look at the Irish Theatre Awards and what new plays have been successful as part of that. Or maybe a play you have seen recently (someone mentioned ‘Drum Belly’ which is perfect).

Ask each other for help sourcing scripts, for instance I know I have a copy of ‘Silent’ which I bought after I saw it in Smock Alley in January.

To help in the search for contemporary Irish monologues here is the list of Irish Theatre Awards ‘Best New Play’ nominees from the last few years:

- 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)


3. Observation

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

Think about how they might react to everyday situations

4. Our First Monologues

- 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)