

23 Useful Techniques in Drama

(1-6) Visualization Techniques: Awaken the Scene

Number	Technique	Description	Example
1	3D Living Pictures	Animate pictures with freeze frames thought tracking, and improvisation for visual stage effects.	Actors freeze in a busy marketplace scene, then come to life one by one, sharing their character's thoughts.
2	Action Clip	Animate freeze frames quickly to add dynamic visuals to the performance.	Actors portray a hectic office scene, rapidly transitioning between different freeze frames to show the chaos.
3	Developing Freeze Frames	Adapt freeze frames in various educational contexts for visual storytelling.	Students freeze in historical costumes, and then slowly adapt their poses to show the progression of a historical event.
4	Freeze Frames	Use body shapes and postures to create static visual images on stage.	A scene where actors freeze as a family at a dinner table, each expressing different emotions through their posture.
5	Image Theatre	Use still images to explore abstract concepts and realistic scenarios visually.	Actors create a series of still images to depict the stages of grief in a visual montage.
6	Tableaux	Form still images with your body to visually narrate a scene.	A tableau depicting a famous painting, with actors holding their positions to recreate the artwork.

(7-12) Improv and Character Exploration: Dive into the Psyche

Number	Technique	Description	Example
7	Conscience Alley	Walk through a group-formed alley, interacting with actors' thoughts or advice.	An actor, playing a character facing a moral dilemma, walks through the alley as other actors voice the character's conflicting thoughts.
8	Hot Seating	Get interrogated about your character's background, actions, and motivations.	An actor playing a historical figure answers questions from the audience or other actors, staying in character.
9	Hot Spotting	Combine hot-seating and freeze frames for character development.	An actor in a freeze frame suddenly comes to life to answer a probing question about their character's choices.
10	Role Play	Step into your character's persona to explore their psyche and actions.	An actor adopts the role of a teacher in a classroom scene, exploring the character's reactions to students' behavior.
11	Teacher in Role	Participate in the dramatic process with your teacher for enhanced learning.	A drama teacher plays a character from the play being studied, interacting with students to deepen their understanding.
12	Thought Tracking	Voice your character's thoughts or feelings during a freeze-frame.	During a silent scene, an actor voices their character's inner turmoil while others remain frozen.

(13-17) Narrative Techniques: Weave the Story

Number	Technique	Description	Example
13	Cross-Cutting	Interweave scenes using film editing techniques for complex storytelling.	Actors switch between a present-day scene and a flashback to show how past events affect the present.
14	Flashbacks and Flash Forwards	Improvise scenes from different timeline points to enrich the narrative.	A character reflects on their childhood in a flashback, then returns to the present, providing context for their actions.
15	Narration	Directly narrate a story or provide information to guide the audience.	An actor steps out of a scene to explain the backstory of a conflict unfolding on stage.
16	Storytelling	Deliver narratives compellingly in a fundamental dramatic activity.	An actor tells a folk tale, using different voices and gestures for each character.
17	Whoosh!	Participate in interactive storytelling by embodying characters or objects.	Actors quickly transform from trees to animals to humans, narrating a story about a forest.

(18-23) Interactive and Collaborative Techniques: Engage and Collaborate

Number	Technique	Description	Example
18	Forum Theatre	Showcase oppressive scenarios for audience interaction to explore solutions.	Actors perform a scene of workplace inequality and then invite audience suggestions for different outcomes.
19	Mantle of the Expert	Assume expert roles in a fictional world for collaborative learning.	Students act as scientists solving a complex environmental problem, using drama to explore different solutions.
20	Marking the Moment	Emphasize crucial moments in scenes or improvisations.	During a dramatic revelation in a play, the action slows down and lighting focuses on the key actor to highlight the moment.
21	Role on the Wall	Collaboratively explore character insights to understand roles better.	Actors add thoughts, feelings, and facts about a character to a large paper silhouette, creating a comprehensive character profile.
22	Soundscapes	Create sound pictures using voices and bodies for auditory drama.	Actors use their voices and body percussion to create the sounds of a stormy night, complementing a tense scene.
23	Spotlight	Highlight drama from smaller groups for collaborative storytelling.	Smaller groups in a class perform short, improvised scenes, each spotlighting a different aspect of the main theme.