

Park Bench

skill

GOAL: To help students use their imagination to create different scenarios while getting into character quickly.

SET-UP: A couple of chairs parked together to make a bench.

EXERCISE: One participant sits on a bench. The setting is a park, and the person on the bench has no character until the second participant enters. The second participant has decided who she is, and who the person sitting on the park bench is. For example, the person entering could decide, "The person on the bench is a famous author, and I am a great fan of their work." In this situation, the actor would recognize the person on the bench, react to seeing their favorite author in person, ask for an autograph, and tell the author about which books she likes best. The actor on the bench, meanwhile, has to adapt to the situation, developing their character bit by bit. The improvisation ends when one actor exits, hopefully after everyone figures out who they are.

NOTES:With younger or less experienced actors, the leader may want to supply the person entering with characters, so that there is no worry about clear characters.

This exercise taken from: http://www.creativedrama.com/theatre.htm