

Theater: Creating Something from Nothing (Part 2) *Specialty Track*

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SUMMARY:	This specialty track will delve into the awe of what it means to create, to have created, and to have been created. Together, we will learn camper-friendly methodologies to help shape and develop your theater specialty and how to go from the "formless void" to your audience walking out saying "this was good!" <i>-Submitted by Melissa Shaw</i>
TOPIC(S):	Theater, Storytelling
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	Fellows will learn and feel comfortable with various methods of creating things from the "mud up."
AUDIENCE:	6 th grade and up, Max 20
TIMING:	90 minutes
APPENDICES:	Quotes about Creation
MATERIALS NEEDED:	None
SET-UP DETAILS:	Theater swept with a half circle of chairs

SESSION TIMELINE & OUTLINE:

Welcome back!

(5 minutes) Circle warm up. "It's me!"

Participants stand in a circle and take turns hitting the center mark and declaring while posing however they like, "It's me!"

(10 minutes) Read and Respond to Quotes posted around the room (Included in appendix)

With a marker respond to the quotes. Are they true for you? What do they make you think or feel?

(10 minutes) Share writing/photos of the thing they created

- Discuss:
 - What did they experience before, during and after creating?
 - What do we know about creation from this?

(15 minutes) Adam and Eve get caught in a lie...

Collaboration is all about “being in it together.” Was that true for Adam and Eve? What happened when they got caught?

Two people get up on stage and they are questioned about “breaking a rule” they have to take turns coming up with excuses and adding on to each other’s story!

(25 minutes) Image Theater- Breath life into the Mud

In this activity fellows will build on the still image work of the previous day to make meaning and story from still images

(20 minutes) Speak it into being.

This is an improv game that requires “Yes and...” thinking, trust, and collaboration. Fellows take turns being the Narrator. We will choose a location to help them and a genre. From there as an ensemble we will create a scene. The Narrator will set up all circumstances, but will leave space for their creation to speak and react. Sound familiar?

Facilitator will model as Narrator with help of fellows.

Example:

Location: Barn

Genre: Mystery

Narrator: Once upon a time there were two little mice detectives.

Two actors step forward as little mice (using their body to convey character)

Narrator: The lead detective Clancy said..

First actor acting as Clancy, the lead detective: “Moira, the game is a foot. I found a clue!”

Narrator: Moira looked at Clancy, shocked, said:

Moira: “I think I know who did it!!!!”

This is a great example of creating readers theater/biblio-drama and helping younger students write an original play based on things you might be working on at camp!

Reminder: Theater doesn’t need 1 playwright in order to succeed!

(5 minutes) Close out + Assignment: Watch the world around you: What is a question you either have about life or one that you think you see people struggling with?