

### Theater, *Specialty Track*

<b>AUTHOR(S):</b>	Melissa Shaw
<b>SUMMARY:</b>	In this session we will: practice using theater as a tool for leadership, community building, and exploring Jewish values through physical techniques, ensemble exercises, and text.
<b>ABC GOALS:</b>	<p><b>Affective:</b> Participants will feel...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More skilled in theater making practices and how they can affect all of camp culture</li> <li>• Empowered to use their creativity and push through blocks</li> <li>• Excited to take what they have learned back to their campers</li> </ul> <p><b>Behavior:</b> Participants will be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create original pieces of writing and theater through a Jewish lens</li> <li>• Expand their own skills for community building</li> <li>• Lead and allow themselves to be led in a cohort of colleagues</li> </ul> <p><b>Cognitive:</b> Participants will know...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theater vocabulary</li> <li>• New methods of creating theater with campers</li> <li>• That the skills learned in this track are applicable to all aspects of camp life.</li> </ul>
<b>AUDIENCE:</b>	All of the exercises and activities are designed to be used with all age ranges they will encounter at camp. Best for group sizes between 10-20.
<b>TIMING:</b>	90 minutes
<b>APPENDICES:</b>	
<b>MATERIALS NEEDED:</b>	Chart Paper, Sharpies, Middot Cards
<b>SET-UP DETAILS:</b>	Theater or any large flexible space. All that is required in an empty space and chairs.

### SESSION TIMELINE

#### Session #1

- 00:00-00:15 - Introductions, Why Theater?
- 00:15-00:25 - Name Game
- 00:25-00:45 - Interconnected Constellations
- 00:45-1:10 - The Blank Space
- 1:10- 1:20 - Walk the Floor Together
- 1:20-1:30 - Debrief

#### Session #2

- 00:00-00:15 – Warm Up 1X2XBradford
- 00:15-00:35 – Image to Gesture
- 00:35-1:10 – Jewish Value Images- Middot Gallery
- 1:10-1:30 – Team creation

#### Session#3

- 00:00-00:20 – Ring of Fire
- 00:20-00:30 – What is Midrash?
- 00:30-00:40- Hevruta exploration
- 00:40-1:15 - Drash Monologues.
- 1:15-1:30- Bring it all Back Home

### SESSION OUTLINE:

00:00-00:015 - Session leader introduces session topic and leads group in a round of introductions (name, pronouns, camp and what you are hoping to get out of this Track) Why Theater?

#### 00:15-00:25- **Name game- “I’m Melissa and you’re Louis and That’s a Wonderful Thing”**

In this name passing game, participants will learn names of their fellow cohort members and welcome each other warmly. Session leader will begin by saying “ I am\_\_\_\_\_ and then passing it to a participant saying “and you are\_\_\_\_\_ and that’s a wonderful thing.” Game continues until all participants have been called on.

Debrief:

- How did that feel?
- Why is a feeling of being welcomed by others important?

#### 00:25-00:45 -**Interconnected Constellations**

Camp is a network of constellations. Relationships between campers, staff, family, nature, ideas, etc all encouraging each other to “grow, grow. In this activity we will also grow our awareness of the power of our interconnectedness and how we affect each other both onstage and off.

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Participants are invited to find a place on stage or in a large open space. Session leader will ask participants to begin to walk at a variety of paces. After a few moments participants will be asked to pick out *one person* to keep in their sights as they move through the space. After a few minutes they will then be asked to pick out a *second person* as they keep moving through the space. After a rhythm has been created, the session leader will ask everyone to stop and to form an equilateral triangle with their two people without saying a single word to one another. When the entire group feels that they have completed the task everyone will be asked to remain still.

### **Debrief:**

What did you notice about how having people to keep in your sights affected how you moved?

What was the challenge in forming your triangle?

How does this connect to community mindedness at camp?

### **00:45-1:10: -And Then There was Something: Meditation on and Creation in an “Empty Space.”**

Participants will sit in chairs facing the empty space of the theater or room. We will close our eyes and through a short- guided meditation and imagine what could come to exist in it. Participants will be encouraged to remember that there are no limits to what we can create and that for now to believe that there is not “wrong choice.”

Participants will then be welcome to take turns doing anything they wish in the space in front of them. (ie a pose, a dance, lie down, stand up,) all they have to do is make a single contribution to start and then return to their seat.

Note: Before introducing the creation please remind them that when making their choice, although their authenticity is encourages they should keep in mind the psychological and physical safety of themselves and others. Do no harm. Spark joy.

### **Debrief-**

What was the empty space to you?

How did you feel making a choice?

How did you feel about the things that you watched?

How might your experiences here help campers who are nervous about

### **1:10-1:20-Walk Across the Floor**

Participants will be asked to line up at the back of the room and to journey collectively to the front. No one is in charge and everyone has to arrive at the same time.

### **Debrief:**

How do we share leadership?

How do we not leave anyone behind?

What does it take to stay together as a community?

Why does it matter?

1:20-1:30 **Close Out.**

How do you feel now versus at the beginning of session?

What is one thing that we did today or what is one insight that you could bring to camp this summer?

### Specialty Track #2

#### 00:00-00:15 1X2XBradford

In this warm up exercise Participants will begin playing with gesture by partnering and taking turns alternating counting together to the number three. As the activity progresses, the session leader asks the participants to replace numbers with a sound and gesture. In the first round a gesture will replace the number one, in the second round a gesture will replace the numbers one and two and in the third, sound and gesture will replace all of the numbers. After a comfort has been established with the sequence participants will be asked to share with one another.

What did you notice in doing this activity with your partner?

What did you observe in each “performance?”

What does this teach us about the power of gesture?

00:15-00:35- Image to Gesture practice.

In this exercise we will practice the power of creating and viewing images.

Both in the theater as well as in our daily life as leaders it is powerful to notice messages that are being conveyed *non-verbally* as well as verbally.

Participants will be given words to create still images from. From the audience participants will read what is being communicated. Slowly we will move from still image to subtle gesture to bring the images alive.

Debrief: How did you read the images. What did you notice? What does our body language communicate?

00:35-1:10 Jewish Value Images- Middot Gallery

Using the Middot Cards from the Making Menches Periodic Table, participants will be assigned a Jewish value. They will be given a few moments to reflect on the Value and interpret it for themselves.

Participants will be asked how they would demonstrate this value with their body?

Half of the Participants will be asked to get up on stage and hold their pose next to a piece of chart paper. They may lie down, stand up, sit- the sky's the limit as long as they can hold it. All participants will be asked to place their Middot card in front of their “statue.”

The other half of the participants will be asked to walk around and view the statues and on the chart paper next to each statue to write down what that statue might be thinking. This could be a piece of dialogue, a word, a drawing, or a stream of consciousness monologue



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Time will be allowed for everyone to visit each statue. Session Leader will write the name of each Middot on the top of the chart paper.

Once the first half is completed everyone will switch places and repeat the process.

1:10-1:30- Jewish Values Make a scene

In small groups participants will create small scenes inspired by the idea harvesting from the previous exercise.

Session #3

00:00-00:20- Ring of Fire

In this exercise participants will circle up and take turns jumping into the circle and speaking on a random topic. The only rules are they that they can not stop talking until their time is up.

Topics will include:

Rainbow  
Flood  
Desert  
Angel  
Mountain  
King  
Sacrifice  
Laws  
Birth  
Etc.

What did you discover about yourself through this exercise?

How might this practice strengthen your public speaking skills

How might this game be beneficial to our campers?

00:20-00:30 -What is Midrash? Participants explore the significance of Midrash and how it is a powerful aspect of Jewish meaning making and storytelling.

00:30-00:40- Hevruta

In Hevruta, participants, in the Spirit of exploring the impact of midrash will be asked to spend time talking about the circumstances of the text, the “character” we want to hear more from, and what else it makes them think about.

00:40-1:15- Drash Monologues

Inspired by the text and the discussion had in Hevruta. Partners are now invited to write a first person speech, reflection-( A Monologue ) from the point of view of a figure in the text. After the monologues are complete pairs will take turns practicing directing each of them

1:15-1:30- Bringing These Ideas back to camp



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Where do you think some of these skills could be useful in your work this summer?

In the theater specialty?

In general?

What is one thing you would like to try at the start of camp?