

**NEW YORK
THEATRE
WORKSHOP**

Mind the Gap Reunion

The Object Lesson

Pre-Show Workshop

BEFORE WORKSHOP

Bring an object that is meaningful to you:

- Perhaps it is associated with a fond memory or a significant moment in your life.
 - Or perhaps it reminds you of a particular relationship to a person or place.
 - It should not be something fragile or easily broken.
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Warm-Up [10 Minutes]

1. Sound & Movement

- Standing in a circle.
- The facilitator introduces a dynamic sound and gesture.
- The person to their left or right then does that same sound and gesture.
- The sound and gesture is the “passed” around the group, making its way all the way around the circle.
- Note: The sound and gesture will naturally morph into something else.
- Once it arrives back the facilitator they may change the sound and gesture or continue “passing” the phrase around the circle.
- Note: The facilitator is the only one actively changing the sound and gesture – not the participants.

2. Location & Bodies

- Form 3 groups, 7-8 people in each group.
- Explain that all three groups will be tasked with portraying the same location/place. They may depict that location/place naturalistically or abstractly. For example, a person could be a door, a dog or the sun – or just a person.
- Note: These are still images – tableaux. They should be constructed without speaking and in an improvisational fashion.
- Location/Place: Grocery Store
 - Create your tableaux; you have 1-2 minutes.
 - Allow all 3 groups to share their tableaux.
- Give each of the 3 groups their own location/place.
 - Central Park
 - Times Square
 - Museum of Natural History
- Allow each of the 3 groups share, while the other groups guess.

Object Activity [30 Minutes Create]

A. This next activity is going to be a little different than what we normally do or did in Mind the Gap, we are going to create first and interview one-another later. We'll explore why we switched it up after we complete the activity.

- Sit next to someone you do not know.

2. Without talking about your objects, trade objects with you partner.
 - Handle it with care.
4. What does their object spark within you? Although it is not your object, what memories or feelings does the object awaken within you? What does it remind you of from your own life? For example, this may not be my shirt – but it may make me think of the shirt I wore to far too many college parties, etc.

Task

- Create a 30 – 60 second performance piece that tells the story of your relationship with the object.

Criteria

- Be imaginative, the story you create does not need to be linear.
 - At least ½ of the piece must be non-verbal.
 - Portray a clear personal relationship with the object.
 - You may choose whether or not to use the object in the piece.
 - You do not know the real story of the object; you only know your story – your personal takeaway.
 - Seating configuration, the chairs will remain in a circle – the performance will be in the round.
 - Note: Feel free to write down dialogue or a monologue or even write down the sequence of non-verbal actions you are going to execute in the piece
5. Share 4-8 performance pieces.
 - Note: Both partners do not have to share.

Interview [20 Minutes – 10 Minutes/Person]

Return to partner and interview one another.

- Question: What's the story of your object? Why did you bring this object in today?
- Discuss: How were our relationships to the objects similar or different?

Reflection Discuss [30 Minutes]

- Impact / Exercise

Owner

1. How did knowing the objects owner impact your piece?
2. Would the piece have changed if the owner had been of a different demographic?
3. How would your piece now change, now that you know the owners story?
4. Discuss the universality of objects. How are objects personal? How are they universal?

Creation

5. What was your experience creating a piece without words?
6. How was this experience different than writing a play in Mind the Gap?
7. What was it like performing in the round?

- Themes [Memory, Possessions & Relationships]

8. How was your fiction relation to the object similar or different than your partner's?
9. How did hearing the story or memory of the object change you perception of it?
10. How do the objects we own define who we are as individuals?
 - A. What does what you brought tell us about who you are?
 - B. What may you perceive about other people in this room based on the object they brought with them?

- Show

Round

Immersive

- Since this is an immersive experience, the seating is not what you would traditionally expect to find. There are several seats scattered throughout the house and there are also boxes labeled “seat”, which you are more than welcome to move and sit on – these are stable seats.

- Feel free to roam and explore the space and the objects scattered throughout.

Interactive