

Theatre of the Oppressed Workshop  
 Rachel D. Solomon and Patrick Burr

**Community:** Theatre Education Students (primarily Graduate Students at Emerson College)

**Goal:** To provide an introduction to Boal and Image Theater that can be used in classrooms, rehearsal spaces, etc.

To imagine and rehearse alternative possibilities towards the goal of a liberated and democratic space

To explore the role of the theater educator in the classroom and in the community.

To explore the power dynamics of the theater making/devising process.

*(Note - these last two are dependent upon the conversations held during the workshop)*

**Introduction** 5 minutes

What/Goal	How	Who	Time
To introduce the group to the facilitators	Beginning Introduction - about us, about Boal, about Theater of the Oppressed	Rachel	2 minutes
To show that Boal's activities are familiar to many of us already	Aggressor/Protector	Rachel	3 minutes

**Warm-Up: De-mechanization** - Allowing the mind to open to different possibilities. 18 minutes

What/Goal	How	Who	Time
To succinctly explain the de-mechanization process	The Cross and the Circle	Patrick	2 minutes
Further the de-mechanization. Get group to work together and be silly together, but (if time allows) in partners instead of a riskier larger group. Moving the bodies in non-pedestrian ways	2 by 3 by Bradford	Rachel	4 minutes
Become aware of all that the body does without us "keeping	Racing on Chairs Sequence, and inspired	Patrick/Rachel (Taking turns	8 minutes

a brain cell” on it. Moving to larger group activities and being silly	by Slow Motion --Initial Slow Race --Slow Motion but naming what you are doing --Slow Motion but naming what you are *about* to do	with each new variation)	
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**Processing beat**

**Brief overview of Boal’s types of theatre (Image, Invisible, Legislative, Forum)**

**Bridge 20 minutes**

<b>What/Goal</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Time</b>
Practice observing and inhabiting other people’s bodies/offerings	Photographing the Image <i>(if time allows)</i>	Rachel	4 minutes
Move from demechanization to thinking about images in preparation for larger Image Theater activities.	Complete the Image (Handshake Game)	Rachel	4 minutes
Get the group thinking about imagery, exploring power in a non-threatening way (with just chairs) Seeing something that is outside of you, stepping into it and changing it	Great Game of Power --5 Chairs --Include a person --5 Chairs in an educational/rehearsal space	Patrick	10 minutes

**Processing beat**

**Description of Dynamisation and Spect-Actor**

**Activation: 17 minutes**

<b>What/Goal</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Time</b>
Activate observations from Great Game of Power	Image of Transition <i>(if time allows)</i>	Patrick	7 minutes

<p>Expanding awareness Practicing spect-actorship</p>	<p>--Dynamisation moving from real to ideal based on prompts from conversation. (Ex - power structures in administration, education, theatre, etc.)</p>		
<p>Apply TO to personal experiences Empower protagonists Moving from theory to practicality</p>	<p>Merry Go Round of Images</p>	<p>Rachel</p>	<p>10 minutes</p>

**Processing beat**