

Drama, Film and Theatre Studies

Film-making Activities

Copy Me



Whole group



5 minutes



Standing in circle

Description

This activity requires participants to focus, collaborate and build group cohesion.

Method

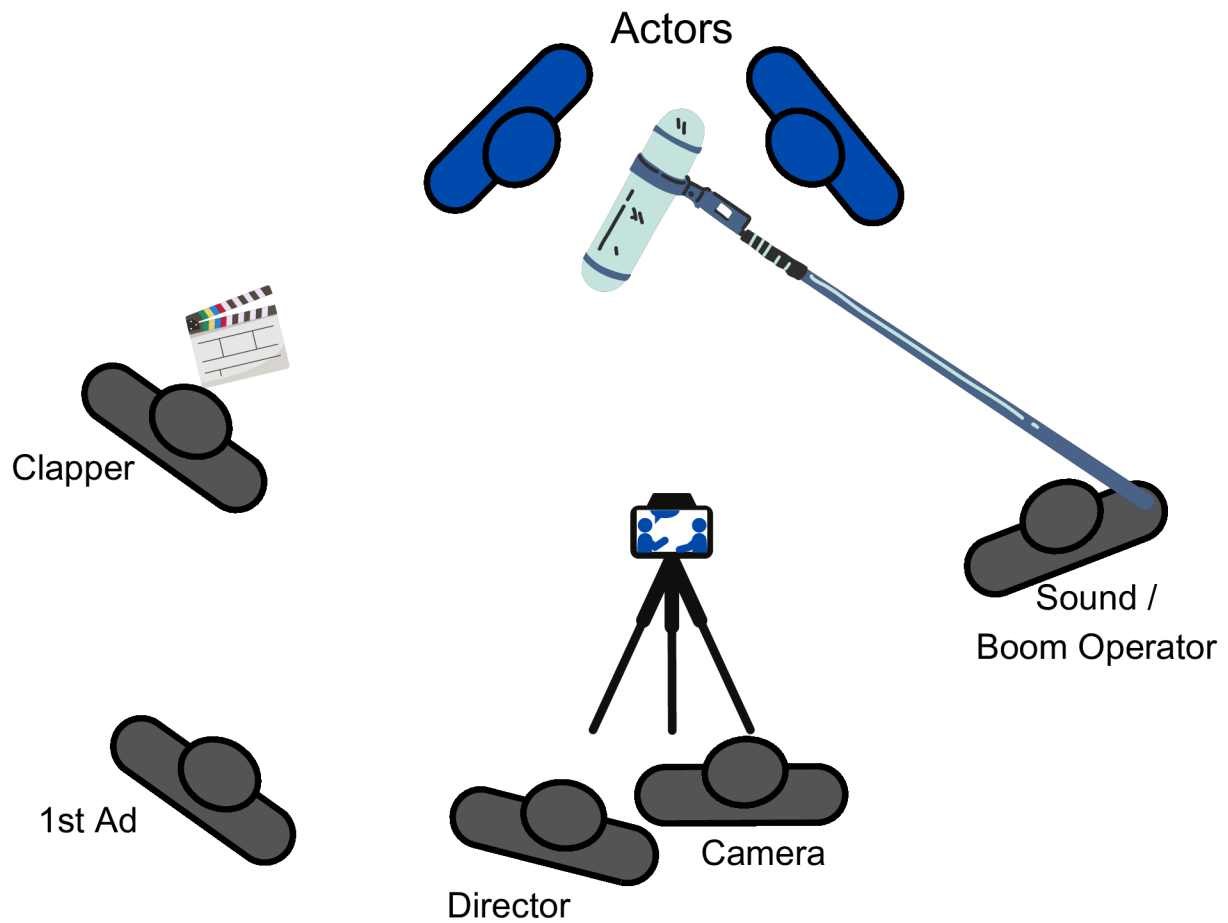
- Participants are standing in a circle.
- The facilitator instructs the group to "Copy Me!".
- Participants focus on the facilitator, who then begins to make slow movements with their hands, feet, head, or neck, so that all participants can copy the movements.
- When participants are fully engaged and copying the movements, the facilitator stops.
- The facilitator extends their hands out wide, and instructs participants to focus closely.
- The facilitator moves hands together in a slow clap and participants clap in unison.
- The clapping continues, gradually increasing in synchrony, and concludes with a final round of applause.

My Notes/My Reflections

Notes

[illegible]

Film Crew Positions



Notes

[illegible]

Set Calls for Film Crew



Whole/small group



10 - 15 seconds



Film Set

Description

This instruction is the most important communication for the film crew and takes place when a scene is about to start. The activity requires participants to focus, listen actively, take turns, understand the crew roles and the order of the calls.

Method

When everyone is ready to shoot, these are the calls for each role.

1st Assistant Director (AD) says - QUIET ON SET PLEASE

When set is quiet

1st AD says - BOARD IN

When clapper is in shot

1st AD says - SOUND

Sound Operator responds - SPEED

1st AD says - ROLL CAMERA

When the camera is recording

Camera Operator responds - ROLLING

1st AD says - MARK IT

With board in shot

Clapper person says - SCENE 1, TAKE 1

When everything is set

Director calls - ACTION

(It is always the director who calls 'Action')

When the shot / action is finished

Director calls - CUT

1st AD says - First positions (if they need to do another take)

or 1st AD says MOVING ON (when everyone is happy with the take)

My Notes/My Reflections

Notes

[illegible]

Frame Up



Whole group



2 - 3 minutes



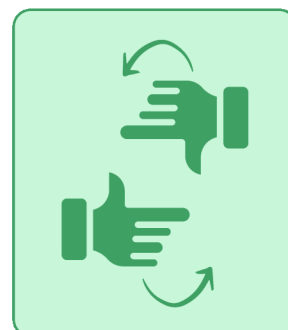
Standing in circle

Description

This activity requires participants to use their hands and fingers to create a frame as a viewfinder when exploring shot types.

Method

- Extend hands in front, facing down, and wiggle fingers.
- Turn hands upward and wiggle fingers.
- Extend arms straight out with thumbs up and index fingers pointing forward, forming the shape of a gun.
- Bring the tips of the index fingers together, rotate one hand so the thumb faces downward, and connect both hands to form the shape of a viewfinder.



My Notes/My Reflections

Notes

[illegible]

Film Language Game



Whole group



5 - 10 minutes



Standing in circle

Description

In this activity, participants use their knowledge of film language to introduce themselves to each other. Supports active listening and group cohesion.

Method

- Participants stand in a circle.
- The facilitator asks participants to think of a film language term with the same first letter as their own name (for example Anna Angle, Jack Jump Cut, Mia Mid Shot).
- Moving around the circle, participants introduce themselves with their name and alliterative film language term.
- The film language term should not be used twice.
- The group should be encouraged to help each other find suitable alliterative film language terms.

Extension

- The facilitator and participants may wish to challenge themselves by trying to remember as many names as possible.
- Could lead to a discussion of film language terms and what they mean.

My Notes/My Reflections

Notes

[illegible]

Film Feedback Frame



Whole group



Small group



10 - 15 minutes



Screen to view

Description

This frame can be used to assist participants in the giving and receiving of feedback in a collaborative environment. It allows participants to explain and review decisions made during the creative process.

Preparation for facilitation

Each group will show their film sequence to the whole group.
The facilitator frames the discussion by asking questions.

Before viewing

- The facilitator asks the filmmakers - what did you learn? They respond.
- The facilitator then asks the filmmakers - what surprised you? They respond.
- Just before showing the film sequence, the facilitator asks the filmmakers - what would you like the audience to focus on when viewing? They respond.

During viewing of film sequence

Whole group watches the film sequence with the chosen focus in mind.

After viewing the film sequence

The facilitator invites the whole group to discuss:

- What did you appreciate in this film sequence?
- One question you have for the filmmakers related to their 'focus'.
- What might the makers consider in relation to... (focus identified by the filmmakers)

The groups reflect on the feedback and consider:

- What would you like to work on next?
- What are your key takeaways?

This allows time for the filmmakers to consider the decisions they made and to reflect on the experience of developing, recording and editing a film sequence.

Adapted from the work of Abigail Housen and Philip Yenawine

Notes

[illegible]

Film Clip Viewing



Whole group



15 minutes



Screen to view

Description

This approach can be used when viewing and responding to film clips as part of the critical response process.

Preparation for facilitation

Film clips and guiding questions.

Method

In this method, view the film clip three times.

- First watch: to enjoy the clip.
- Second watch: to observe with a focus, for example, the framing and shots.
- Third watch: to critique with a focus, for example, comment on the director's choice of camera shots.

Extension

The facilitator asks the participants to suggest one word to describe the clip.

My Notes/My Reflections

Notes

[illegible]