

After the show

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR A POST-SHOW Q&A

TO DO: Before the show or on the bus on the way to Arts Centre Melbourne

Closed Ended Questions vs. Open Ended Questions

Ask the students a series of closed ended questions and ask them to call out their answers together. Things like

- *"Do you like going to the theatre?"*
- *"Have you been to the Arts Centre before?"*
- *"Do you enjoy excursions?"*
- *"Do you get travel sick?"*

That sort of thing.

After five to ten questions, stop the activity and ask students what all those answers had in common. Hopefully, they will recognize that they only required one word answers like Yes or No.

Now, give the class an open-ended question.

"What are you most looking forward to today?"

Point out that the answer cannot be shouted out in one word but needs a bit more thought.

Students can use this open-ended question or think of their own to ask their partner. Time the students and, after a minute or so, get them to swap – so the questioner becomes the responder.

Let students know they will have a chance to ask questions to the actors after today's performance in a Q&A session.

Ask students:

- *"Why should we avoid lots of closed-ended questions in a Q&A?"*
- *"What sort of voice should we use when asking a question?"*
- *"What do you think it is like to act in a play? Is there anything you'd like to know about being an actor?"*

You may like to prepare some questions with students before the Q&A or at least get them thinking about the types of questions they may like to ask. This include questions about:

- Acting
 - what they most enjoyed about their character / role
 - the acting style
- The Performance
 - themes / issues / characters
 - costumes or sets
 - how did they get the show ready / rehearsal process