

DRAMA *at home*

with Out of the Box

PLAYING WITH STATUS

We have developed short scripts using "Status" before in our lessons, but today we experiment with Status in our Acting!

EXERCISE ONE

- 1** Number 1 is the lowest status. Number 10 is the highest status.
Select a number and walk and move as if your chosen character is of that status. E.g. Number 5 would be very average and a 10 would be the highest.
- 2** Try to draw very clear distinctions between each character "number".
Observe your movements.
NOTE: It is rather difficult to distinguish between the middle numbers e.g. 3&4, 7&8. Try and work through these carefully.

EXERCISE THREE

- 1** Using "Gibberish" or any made-up sounds (even numbers will do!) create a scene between two characters. In your scene, make the status of the characters very clear by the tone of your voice and the body language you use. The relationship and status of the characters should be very clear to the audience.
- 2** Suggested titles for scenes: "The Complaint", "The Interview" or "Caught in the Act."
- TIP!** If you tend to always play a certain status in improvisation, try and play against this!

EXERCISE TWO

- 1** These need to be done with a partner.
Perform a scene with A being the HIGH STATUS character and B being the LOW STATUS character. As the scene progresses, both characters end up exchanging their status. E.g. a rude and arrogant shop assistant treats a customer with disdain only to discover that the customer is in fact the CEO of the store chain.
- 2** Perform a scene where both characters are of a LOW STATUS and do not exchange their status. E.g. the two characters are so overpolite and of low status that they cannot make a decision. Suggested title: "The Revolving Door."
- 3** Perform a scene where both characters are both so arrogant and hard-headed that they will not budge over an issue. Suggested starting line: "What's your problem?"

USE YOUR IMAGINATION AND HAVE FUN!