

THE SOLO PERFORMANCE

Your interpretation of the following scenario will lead to your creation and performance of a five (5) minute solo:

After a long journey, you arrive at a room from your past, a room which was important to you.

How will you enter the room? How will you go in?

**Inside you rediscover this room. Nothing has changed.
Everything is as it was.**

As you explore this room, something triggers a memory in you. You are transported into the past, which comes alive for you again.

Then, at some moment, the present reasserts itself. You leave the room.

This exercise should not be more than 5 minutes long.

Without being prescriptive, feel free to make use of as many performance aspects from your semester's work as possible - voice, speech, song, acrobatics, movement etc - without merely presenting a bag of tricks.

The exercise offers an opportunity for you to bring to life the real world and the world of the imagination in a short moment of experience.

You may use props and set if you choose, but you may find that there is greater freedom for the real and the imaginative to come to life if there is just you and the space of the stage.

*This exercise is based on one used by Jacques Lecoq at his International Theatre School in Paris.

The assessment will be based on the following criteria:

1. The quality of the concept, intention and preparation
2. The quality of the execution
3. Development of individual performance qualities

Some Pointers for the Solos:

We will not be teaching you *how to do your solo*. That is your challenge and your task. The classes will not be drip-feeding you with material that you can recycle into a solo. That is not how training works. But there will be many times in class when you are asked to perform alone and also with others. Keep track of these experiences in your Workbook. The solo is a chance for you to transform some of the things you have learned and encountered into your own individual creation. I strongly advise you to start thinking about your solo *early*. Read

the exercise slowly and carefully. Use your Workbook for jotting ideas, making sketches, writing lines, drawing choreographies etc. You can BOOK THE STUDIO for your own preparation. You might like to work alongside a partner, sharing your ideas, showing each other work, giving each other feedback. If you do this, work with someone you know and can trust.

Below are some things to think about in relation to the solo:

- **The Story:** What journey will you take the audience on? What change and discoveries will occur within the 5 minutes? (Note: Your structure does not have to be linear)
- **The Style:** How you will tell it – think about pace, space, tone, techniques, staging etc
- **The Intention:** As well as ‘telling a story’ and ‘making a performance,’ the *why* of your solo should be clear and Why is this something you need to tell? And what will the audience take away at the end? NB: What an audience takes away does not need to be a ‘message’ – often it is a question that leaves them thinking.

The Presentations:

The solo presentations will be assessed by a small panel, made up of some staff who have taught you during the semester and others who may not have seen your work. Marks will be taken off for exceeding the 5-minute time limit – it is part of your task to create a performance that fulfils the 5-minute time requirement.