

## Relationship Space (Post-show)

Objective: Use elements of drama to explore relationships and themes in the play.

Materials: Open space.

The distance between people in life says something about their relationship. Many people are comfortable being closer to friends than they are to acquaintances or strangers. The distance between characters onstage is one way that actors and directors communicate something about their relationship with the audience. This distance differs across cultures<sup>1</sup> so interpretation may vary.

Directions:

1. Have students form groups of two and pick a favourite moment from the show to recreate. Students should position themselves in a way that is influenced by how the character feels in the moment. They should use the distance between them to communicate how the characters are feeling.
2. After students have developed their tableau<sup>2</sup>, have them present it in front of the class.
3. Ask the audience what part of the play they think the students are representing and how they think the characters feel.
4. One at a time, tap each of the two students on the shoulder and ask them to describe how they are feeling as the character.

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<sup>1</sup> Sorokowska, A., et al. (2017). Preferred Interpersonal Distances: A Global Comparison. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, 48(4), 577 –592. Retrieved from [https://bib.irb.hr/datoteka/873645.sorokowska\\_et\\_al\\_2017.pdf](https://bib.irb.hr/datoteka/873645.sorokowska_et_al_2017.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> A tableau is a frozen stage picture. They can be presented alone or in succession to tell a story.