

Looking back, evaluate how has your touring theatre production *realised* in practice elements of Tasks 1 & 2?

Since this piece was devised I believe that I contributed a lot to our production. In rehearsals I was put into a group where we had to create a story about meeting an alien and we had to incorporate something to do with cheerleading into it. I believe this translated into the show when I fell off the ladder and everyone “caught” me and did a lift in the show. We knew what story elements and the message that needed to come through and I contributed by pointing out when something confused this.

Because there were a lot of people giving to the story and it had to be devised within five weeks, there were some difficulties that arose in the process that had to be addressed. There were many versions of the story that it was difficult to narrow down what we wanted the story to be. In order to deal with this problem I had to be okay with letting some of my ideas go because it did not make sense. Another difficulty that needed to be addressed was that I kept pointing out inconsistencies. For a while it was useful but it got to the point where we had the creative license so not everything *had* to make perfect sense, as long as the message was still getting across.

As I have never done devising work before, I learned so much. During the rehearsal stage of things, I learned how much material improvisation games generate. I only saw it as a tool to awaken playfulness. This time there were elements of the games that directly made their way into the end product. I also learned how to listen to every suggestion while still sticking to the main story by listening to Hannah and observing how she did this. When she really liked the idea, we usually got up onto our feet and tried it in the scene right away. When she was not sure (or knew) if something did not fit, she said something along the lines of putting a pin in it. This was a fair way of doing things because if it did prove to be a good idea it would be brought up again. If not, we let it go. Things I learned while touring were learned on my feet because having to adjust was a constant throughout. The first thing I learned was having to adjust to different audiences and their reactions to the show. I learned how to improvise in order to accommodate for audiences. Some groups had very long reactions so we had to improvise around that as well to keep the scene going. I also learned how to accommodate for a changing set size. Some schools had very low ceilings, with narrow, short halls. Pieces of set were left out and we had to watch our heads when climbing over things. I really enjoyed it because it always kept the show fresh and improvising felt very comfortable since we had devised it and I felt as though we had full ownership of the show.