

Flashback, flashforward

 20 minutes



 Inclusive mobility

Devising activities based around ‘flashing forward’ or backward can be key rehearsal tools, encouraging students to develop their understanding of character, story structure and text.

- You can introduce your group to ‘flashing forward’ or back through using tableaux. Ask your group(s) to create a tableau; you can give them a stimulus or they could use their own idea. Once they are in place, ask them to move into a tableau of what happened a few moments before the original scene. Do this again, but this time ask them to ‘flash forward’ to what happened a few moments after. You can build on this by asking your students to devise a whole scene using the three tableaux as the beginning, middle and end.
- Once your students are familiar with the concept, you can build it into any rehearsal work you are doing. Ask your student(s) to devise a scene that takes place a particular period of time (five minutes/a day/a year etc.) before or after the scene that you’re currently working on. Through doing this, your student will deepen their understanding of their character’s journey, and where the scene you are working on fits within that. Encourage your students to consider how what happened before will have affected the character’s actions and motivations; does this give them a better understanding of the character? Does exploring what came afterwards give any more significance to what their character says or does in the scene?
- This is great preparation for the Reflection task that is a part of all Trinity drama exams.