

Characters

Using characters as a theatrical device can serve a variety of functions. As well as simply being the inspiration for a workshop theme i.e. Marco Polo, inspiring a workshop situated in Venice, characters can inform the way workshops are structured and bring focus to certain activities, without being prescriptive or using a lot of language, rather modelling and encouraging engagement:

A character can:

- Lead clients through a narrative, bringing focus to a specific activity and supporting engagement and interaction
- Appear from nowhere - as a surprise, be drawn from a box/chest, be summoned with magic music or vocal sounds
- Be costumed and/or masked. Without speech, there are opportunities for facial expression and body language to be used to communicate with clients and reflect their responses
- Have tactile and/or sound properties that PMLD clients can explore
- Take the form of a puppet which many clients find easier to deal with than a human.
- Encourage movement and dance within a safe context
- Allow people to overcome fears and phobias, to succeed, to be brave
- Provide opportunities for fun and games, for mischievousness and laughter
- Enable clients to participate in role-play, either responding to character, or taking on that role themselves
- Enable clients to suspend their disbelief along with their anxieties, motivating interactions that are otherwise too difficult for them.

Links

Puppets (Props)

Workshops Oz 1, Bamboo, Lady of Shalott, Sleeping Beauty

Videos

Characters Vid

Macbeth pot put pot

Pingu