

Background

Image theatre is an approach based on the Theatre of the Oppressed¹, and was originally designed to explore socio-political power dynamics. The image theatre scripts for Vital are designed to be used as a tool to explore the dynamics of power and agency in our relationships to food, including each other and non-humans.

The scripts should be used in sequence with a group of 4+, with discussions facilitated by the workshop leader. All Participant Actor parts should be interpreted non-verbally, so that acting is portrayed through body positions alone, and not through spoken language. This is more congruent with the variety of roles in the scripts, and brings to the fore the importance of embodied knowledge in social interactions and relationship building².

¹[Image Theater, Beautiful Trouble: A Toolbox for Revolution](#) retrieved 2. February 2018

²[Intercorporeality as a theory of social cognition](#) (2015), S. Tanaka, Theory & Psychology, 25 (4), 455 - 472

Scene 1: Walking in the park around others

Roles

Participant Actor 1: subject 1

Participant Actor 2: person unknown to subject 1

Script

Act	Action
1. Walk towards each other on a path	Interpretive discussion of body positions
2. Encounter each other	Interpretive discussion of body positions. What does the positioning tell us about the following: What is important to each person in this encounter?
3. Pass each other and walk beyond	Interpretive discussion of body positions. What does the positioning tell us about the following: What is the flavour of the social interaction? How important is proximity? How important is the path?

Scene 2: Walking with / meeting another

Roles

Participant Actor 1: subject 1

Participant Actor 2: subject 2 (dog)

Participant Actor 3: subject 3 (friend)

Script

Act	Action
1. Walk into the park	Interpretive discussion of body positions
2. Dog sees something interesting	Interpretive discussion of body positions. What does the positioning tell us about the following: How does the environment affect their behaviour? Does the interaction between them affect their interaction with the space? Where does the agency reside?
3. Subject 1 sees friend	
4. Friend and subject 1 approach each other	
5. They greet each other	
6. Subject 1 wants to leave, retrieves dog	
7. All depart	Interpretive discussion of body positions. Does the encounter affect the departing? Is there a temporal aspect to the meeting beyond the encounter?

Scene 3: Stopping to smell the flowers

Roles

Participant Actor 1: subject 1

Participant Actor 2: subject 2

Participant Actor 3: smelly plant

Participant Actors 6+: weather

Script

Act	Action
1. Subject 1 enters aimlessly	Interpretive discussion of body positions: How does subject 1 inhabit the space?
2. Subject 2 enters with intent	Interpretive discussion of body positions: How does subject 2 inhabit the space? How does subject 2 relate to subject 1 and vice versa?
3. Subject 1 stops to smell the flowers	Interpretive discussion of body positions: Which entity is agentic in this situation? Where does the agency lie between the three actors?
4. It begins to rain	Interpretive discussion of body positions: Does the rain affect specific people? How do the different entities interact? Where does the agency lie? Does intent affect embodied interaction?