

# DEVISING TECHNIQUES

Starting to create your own piece of theatre

## BRAINSTORM

As a group, discuss the themes that you want to explore in the performance. Brainstorm stories that involve the characters experiencing each theme.

## CHARACTERS

Start by creating the characters. Too many devised pieces fail because the characters have not been carefully thought out. Name each character and talk about their personality and relationships.

## FREEZE FRAME

Create freeze frames that depict crucial moments in the character's life. These can then be incorporated into your performance later on.

## MUSIC

Find a piece of music that represents your theme, either lyrically or through the dynamics or texture. Use the music to create a movement sequence that shows the mood of a character.

## STRUCTURE

Create a flow chart of the story and highlight the key scenes. Experimenting with the structure may help you create a more imaginative and original performance.

## IMPROVISE

Improvise a scene in every rehearsal. Don't just talk thing through. Try to improvise a scene using different styles. A scene may work better as a comedy even though it was originally a drama.

## MONOLOGUE

In a group, think of one word each that describes your character. Then on your own, use the list of words (in the order they were said) to write a monologue for your character.

## REFLECT

At the end of a rehearsal, reflect on what you have done next. Set aims and assign jobs for the next session. Create a rehearsal schedule and stick to it.