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A Practical Guide To Ensemble Devising



Synopsis

Ensemble devising can be a daunting prospect for many actors: it requires a level of imagination, commitment and risk-taking not always seen in conventional theatre. In this handy volume, Davis Robinson uses his wealth of knowledge and expertise, garnered over thirty years of devising, to teach you the ins and outs of ensemble theatre making. *A Practical Guide to Ensemble Devising* leads you through the process of collaborative theatre, from warm-ups and generating ideas to editing and polishing a performance. It features a comprehensive series of exercises throughout, which will allow you to build the foundational skills required for a range of productive ensemble work. By discussing the work of a number of internationally acclaimed practitioners, Robinson encourages you to develop your own unique style of performance. Lively and accessible, this book is invaluable for anyone interested in developing their devising skills.

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'If you are serious about devising ensemble-based physical theatre as a student or practitioner, then this well-informed book will provide valuable guidance and inspiration to steer you through the process.' ***** - David Farmer, Drama Resource

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The title of Mr. Robinson's delightful new book says it all. It's a practical guide to a very slippery and elusive topic, ensemble devising. He uses anecdotes from his over 30 years as the Artistic Director of Beau Jest Moving Theatre for practical evidence of how he has observed and employed devising "in the room" as actor and director. He also includes a comprehensive compendium of exercises he has utilized, developed and created as a student of many of the greats and as Professor of Theatre at Bowdoin College. Mr. Robinson, author of the equally illuminating *The Physical Comedy Handbook*, offers his personal experiences in ways that serve as memoir and practical "how-to." A particularly personal passage details a frustrating episode in his company's process, when they were at a loss, having spent months going in the wrong direction, and how they eventually turned their ship around and devised a very satisfying and enduring piece.

If you're interested in innovative techniques to create ensemble work, Davis Robinson's *A Practical Guide to Ensemble Devising* is an outstanding book. He offers skill-building exercises and countless ways to turn an idea into action.

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