TRINITY COLLEGE LONDON

Drama games: Texts

I like your hat

20 minutes+ 4+ people

This is a good introduction to the drama form 'thought tracking', which can be used both in devised work and when exploring the inner world of a character in off-text work.

- In pairs – A and B – students imagine two very polite characters who don't like each other, meeting in a particular location; for example, at the bus stop or in the doctor's waiting room.
- Students should consider why the characters don't like each other, but the characters will be too polite to bring up their grievances in the scene.
- However, at key moments they will freeze the action and take turns to step out of the scene and address the audience directly, speaking what is truly on their minds.
- For example, character A might say to character B, 'I like your hat'. They don't really mean this; they're only being polite. So, the action freezes and character A steps out and speaks their real thoughts: 'This is the ugliest hat I have ever seen! What do they think they look like?'
- Even though they don't say what they are thinking, the character's tone of voice, facial expression and body language will convey the subtext of the character's inner thoughts, which creates tension.
- In showing back work the audience can try to work out why the characters don't like each other.