Drama Menu: Theatre Games in Three Courses

Welcome to Drama Menu, a collection of theatre games designed to engage, inspire, and challenge actors of all ages and skill levels. These games are divided into three "courses": Appetizers, Main Course, and Dessert. Each course offers a variety of games that can be used to warm up, develop skills, and explore creativity.



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by FJ Griffitts

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
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Appetizers

The Appetizers course includes simple, quick-to-play games that are perfect for getting started. These games are great for warming up, building trust, and developing basic theatre skills. Here are a few of our favorites:

Name Game: Players stand in a circle and say each other's names.
The game can be played with different variations, such as saying the names in alphabetical order or in a specific rhythm.

- **Simon Says:** The classic game where players follow commands only if they are preceded by the phrase "Simon says." This game helps to develop listening skills, attention span, and coordination.
- Freeze Dance: Players dance around the room until the music stops, at which point they must freeze in place. The last player to freeze is out. This game helps to develop rhythm, coordination, and spatial awareness.

Main Course

The Main Course includes more challenging games that require more skill and cooperation. These games are great for developing ensemble skills, communication, and creativity. Here are a few of our favorites:

- Improvisation: A free-form game where players create scenes and characters on the spot. Improvisation helps to develop quick thinking, spontaneity, and confidence.
- Role-Playing: A game where players take on different roles and interact with each other in a specific setting. Role-playing helps to develop empathy, social skills, and problem-solving abilities.
- **Tableau:** A game where players create a frozen picture that represents a scene or emotion. Tableau helps to develop imagination, nonverbal communication, and storytelling skills.

Dessert

The Dessert course includes games that are fun, creative, and a little bit silly. These games are great for winding down, celebrating

accomplishments, and fostering a sense of community. Here are a few of our favorites:

- Charades: A classic game where players act out words or phrases while their teammates try to guess what they are. Charades helps to develop imagination, creativity, and nonverbal communication.
- Pictionary: A game where players draw pictures while their teammates try to guess what they are drawing. Pictionary helps to develop imagination, creativity, and spatial reasoning.
- Musical Chairs: A game where players walk around chairs while music plays. When the music stops, players must quickly find a chair to sit in. The player who doesn't find a chair is out. Musical chairs helps to develop coordination, speed, and reaction time.

Benefits of Drama Menu Theatre Games

Drama Menu Theatre Games offer a variety of benefits for actors of all ages and skill levels. These benefits include:

- Improved Communication Skills: Drama games require players to communicate with each other in a variety of ways, including verbally, nonverbally, and physically. This helps to develop clear and effective communication skills.
- Enhanced Creativity: Drama games encourage players to use their imaginations and create new ideas. This helps to develop creative thinking skills, which are essential for success in all areas of life.
- Increased Confidence: Drama games provide a safe and supportive environment for players to take risks and try new things. This helps to

build confidence and self-esteem.

- Stronger Teamwork Skills: Drama games require players to work together to achieve a common goal. This helps to build teamwork skills, which are essential for success in any field.
- Greater Empathy: Drama games allow players to explore different perspectives and emotions. This helps to develop empathy and understanding for others.

Variations on Drama Menu Theatre Games

The games in Drama Menu can be adapted to fit any age group or skill level. Here are a few ideas for variations:

- For younger players: Simplify the rules of the games and make them more accessible. For example, you could play charades with only oneword clues.
- For more experienced players: Add challenges to the games to make them more difficult. For example, you could play improvisation with a specific theme or setting.
- For large groups: Divide the group into smaller teams and have them compete against each other. This can make the games more exciting and competitive.
- For different settings: The games in Drama Menu can be played in a variety of settings, including classrooms, workshops, camps, and even homes. Adapt the games to fit the space and time you have available.

Drama Menu Theatre Games are a fun and engaging way to learn and develop theatre skills. These games can be used in a variety of settings

and with actors of all ages and skill levels. With a little creativity, you can adapt the games to fit your specific needs and goals.

So what are you waiting for? Grab a group of friends or students and start playing today! You'll be amazed at how much you can learn and how much fun you can have along the way.



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