**IMAGE THEATRE**

_Tableaux or Freeze Frames_ are a strong and simple way to present ideas and emotions.

They offer a basic interpretation of how people are with each other, they can expose tensions and also present possibilities for exploring how to change those tensions because it is possible to move people around before they say anything. You feel things in your body without realising, so it is beneficial for both for the players in the tableau as well as the audience.

Tableaux enable the physicalisation of positions before text is introduced. They are not limited by text – good for students with limited language, or who are shy.

Freeze frames can be either improvised or rehearsed.

Benefits of improvised tableaux: instinctive, instant, greater variety of interpretations
Benefits of rehearsed tableaux: encouraging group work, considered, clearer characters/relationships

Tableaux encourage use of space – different heights, distances between people – think about relationships, status

A group presents their frozen image to the audience. The audience is encouraged to interpret, think about ‘ideal’, move characters around to change situation etc. Players are at the will of the audience, but they can give their feedback _afterwards_.

Give voice to characters in ‘real’ and ‘ideal’ images. Ask characters in the freeze frame “How are you feeling/thinking now?” as well as “What is your character saying now?” – are these the same?

Image circle activity:
All players stand in a circle, facing outwards. Facilitator suggests a word, counts to 5 and all players turn in and present their image of the given word at the same moment. All hold still whilst looking at others. Facilitator might select a couple of statues and ask the other players “what do you see?”

Group Tableaux:
Either – all players work together to create image, or one player sculpts group members into image they want, repeat for each member of the group.

Reference: