

Activity Vibe



Activity Vibe is a monthly activity sheet available online at vibe.com.au for use in classrooms, homework centres and at home.

Issue 86

Years 5-6

Pick up a copy of this month's *Deadly Vibe* magazine, the special performing arts edition, and complete the following activities.

★ READING

Are you as mad as hell?

Back in the 1970s, even when individual freedoms were on a bit of a high, people began to realise that the powers-that-be didn't really give a stuff about them – not you, me or any other individual. The little guy was just that – little – but sometimes he could roar. A film called *Network* became famous not just because its star, the Aussie actor Peter Finch, won the Best Actor Oscar that year, but also because as he started to lose it on-camera, he told viewers to "Go to your window, open it, stick your head outside and scream as loud as you can: 'I'm mad as hell and I'm not gonna take it any more!'" And they did – all over town, all over the country. The line became a catch-cry of the times – and maybe now, more than ever, as many of those freedoms are being eroded in the name of 'security', it's a good time to recall it. So go to your window, open it, stick your head outside ...

YOU TALKING TO ME?

THERE'S A GREAT SCENE IN THE 1970S MOVIE *TAXI DRIVER* WHERE ROBERT DE NIRO, WHO IS STARTING TO LOSE THE PLOT, TALKS TO HIMSELF IN THE MIRROR. "YOU TALKING TO ME?" HE ASKS. "THERE AIN'T NO-ONE ELSE HERE, YOU MUST BE TALKING TO ME." I GUESS HE WANTED SOMEONE TO TALK TO, BUT COULDN'T REALLY CONNECT.

YOU COULD HAVE HEAPS OF FUN INVENTING ANOTHER CHARACTER FOR HIM TO TALK TO, OR JUST WRITING A DIALOGUE BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE. IT COULD BE ANYONE TALKING TO ANYONE ELSE ABOUT ANYTHING. DIALOGUES USUALLY WORK BEST WHEN THERE IS SOME CONFLICT THAT HAS TO BE RESOLVED, OR WHEN SOMEONE HAS A CHANGE OF HEART BY THE END OF IT. WHY NOT WRITE IT WITH A FRIEND, THEN PERFORM IT FOR A GROUP OF MATES? WHO KNOWS? YOU MIGHT FIND THAT YOU LOVE IT, WHICH WILL PROBABLY MEAN YOU'RE GOOD AT IT. MAYBE ONE DAY YOU'LL BE UP THERE ON THE MOVIE SCREEN LIKE DE NIRO, WONDERING WHAT THE HELL YOU'RE DOING TALKING TO A MIRROR!

To speak or not to speak ...

There are lots of ways to express yourself. In the days before film and TV, the theatre was where actors let it all hang out. All dressed up, all eyes on them, they had plenty to say – and often they said it in a soliloquy. That's like Hamlet's famous speech, "To be or not to be, that is the question ..." – when the actor/character lets fly in an important speech and no-one interrupts him or her. In many cases, a soliloquy is spoken when no-one else is around – it's just a person expressing their innermost thoughts so the audience knows what's on their mind. But it can also be a tirade launched at someone else. It can be a lot of fun to learn a soliloquy from a famous film, play or TV show, and then let rip when a mate is around. Try it, and take them by surprise!

Smile - you're on camera

It's a high-tech world we live in

There are cameras everywhere, for good reasons and bad. But a big positive is that access to high-tech equipment is now easy and cheap, and there's lots of fun to be had. So get hold of a video camera and start shooting. Film-maker Francis Ford Coppola once said that the film studio system was going to have more and more competition from independent film-makers. A kid

in a small

town with a handheld camera could, he said, make a movie that might be more daring than anything coming out of Hollywood. So why not give it a go? You might just want to film yourself or your friends – or you might want to take a shot at being that kid with the handheld camera ...



GET IN CHARACTER

Who's your favourite movie star? Which one of their roles is your favourite? Whoever and whichever, why not do something a bit different? Instead of sometimes just walking around feeling like them, saying some of their best lines under your breath in a perfect accent, and maybe wishing you could get a bit of that glam and excitement in your life – play dress-ups. Find some clothes that can pass as a costume, get a hat, bag or some other kind of accessory, and go for it. Get 'in character'. Sounds silly? Well, lots of famous actors stay in character when the camera isn't rolling. Like Daniel Day-Lewis, who starred as Bill the Butcher in Martin Scorsese's epic *Gangs of New York*, and told everyone on set, 'Call me Bill'. (If you've seen the movie, you wouldn't argue with him!) So dress up, get some friends around and party in character.

★ COMPREHENSION

Are you as mad as hell?

★ Name the film that starred Peter Finch who told viewers to “go to your window, open it, stick your head outside and scream as loud as you can: ‘I’m as mad as hell and I am not going to take it anymore!’”

To speak or not to speak ...

★ Explain in your own words the meaning of a soliloquy.

Smile - you're on camera



★ Answer true (T) or false (F) to the following statement.

Francis Ford Coppola said that the film studio system was going to have more and more competition from independent film-makers.

YOU TALKING TO ME?

★ Which actor stars in the 1970s movie *Taxi Driver*?

GET IN CHARACTER

★ In your own words, explain how someone can get in character.

WRITING

Remember the film *Radiance*? *Radiance* is the first feature film by Aboriginal director Rachel Perkins. The film is about three women who return home to attend their mother's funeral. The eldest, Cressy, is a successful opera singer, Mae is a nurse and the youngest, Nona, is a bit of a party girl.

★ Break into groups of three and write either a script of a conversation between these three young women or three characters of your own who reunite at home to attend their mother's funeral. The script will be about their very first meeting after a long period of time apart.

CRESSY: _____

NONA: _____

CRESSY: _____

MAE: _____

