



# BIG DRAMAS second edition

## Why Are You Here?

### DRAMA TEACHER NOTES

#### Group discussion

- Discuss how you would stage a production of *Why Are You Here?* in your school hall.
- Find at least three places in the script where music could be used to enhance the action. Select music for these moments and justify your choices.
- Choose one of the characters from the script and, as a group, prepare a full biography of that character, using evidence from the script and your own knowledge of human nature.

#### Improvisation

- In small groups, choose one of the characters from the script and improvise a scene showing the home life of that character.
- In small groups, create short scenes which begin or end with the question 'Why are you here?'

#### Scripting

Imagine there is another patient on stage. What issue has brought that patient to this point? Write a scene, using the extras, which reveals the mental state of this patient.

#### Taking it further

- Research and prepare a report on theatre of the absurd.
- Imagine you are David, the psychiatrist's son, and prepare a monologue about your family.
- Design the costumes for this play, using sketches and notes. Include ideas for the extras.

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