

## Background

Image theatre is an approach based on the Theatre of the Oppressed<sup>1</sup>, and was originally designed to explore socio-political power dynamics. The image theatre scripts for Vital are designed to be used as a tool to explore the dynamics of power and agency in our relationships to food, including each other and non-humans.

The scripts should be used in sequence with a group of 4+, with discussions facilitated by the workshop leader. All Participant Actor parts should be interpreted non-verbally, so that acting is portrayed through body positions alone, and not through spoken language. This is more congruent with the variety of roles in the scripts, and brings to the fore the importance of embodied knowledge in social interactions and relationship building<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [Image Theater, Beautiful Trouble: A Toolbox for Revolution](#) retrieved 2. February 2018

<sup>2</sup> [Intercorporeality as a theory of social cognition](#) (2015), S. Tanaka, *Theory & Psychology*, 25 (4), 455 - 472

## Scene 1: Buying food on-the-go

### Roles

Participant Actor 1: food vendor

Participant Actor 2: person buying food on the go

### Script

Act	Action
1. Ordering food	Interpretive discussion of body positions
2. Handing over food	Interpretive discussion of body positions. What does the positioning tell us about the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is important to each person in this transaction?</li> </ul>
3. Leaving	Interpretive discussion of body positions. What does the positioning tell us about the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How important is the social interaction?</li> <li>• How important is the food?</li> <li>• How important is the taste?</li> <li>• How does this reflect on the value of the food?</li> </ul>

## Scene 2: Cooking for a close friend

### Roles

Participant Actor 1: cook

Participant Actor 2: friend

Participant Actor 3: food

### Script

Act	Action
1. The close friend comes to the house	Interpretive discussion of body positions
2. The cook lets them in	Interpretive discussion of body positions. What does the positioning tell us about the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Are they sharing the food?</li> <li>● How does the food affect their behaviour?</li> <li>● How much are they sharing the food preparation?</li> <li>● Is the cooking a distraction or is it a bonding experience?</li> <li>● Is eating a distraction or a bonding experience?</li> </ul>
3. The friend takes a seat	
4. The cook prepares the food	
5. The cook serves the food	
6. The two people go to eat the food	

## Scene 3: Growing, harvesting and cooking for a group

### Roles

Participant Actor 1: gardener / cook

Participant Actor 2: ground

Participant Actor 3: plant -> food

Participant Actors 4-+: friends

### Script

Act	Action
1. Gardener/cook is gardening the ground	Interpretive discussion of body positions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Who has agency?</li> <li>● Who has the most agency, the gardener or the ground?</li> </ul>
2. Swap in a plant and swap gardener, harvest plant	Interpretive discussion of body positions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Where does the agency lie? Is it the plant or the person who has agency here?</li> <li>● Is agency the same as activity?</li> </ul>
3. Take the food home and cook it for friends	Interpretive discussion of body positions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Is this different from how we felt about cooking in Scene 2?</li> </ul>
4. Friends arriving	Interpretive discussion of body positions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Where do the friends stand, or sit?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Are they helping or are they amusing themselves?</li> <li>● What is the role of the food here? Is it as active as when it was growing as a plant?</li> <li>● How does the agency of the food compare to the agency of the food and the ground?</li> </ul>
5. Serving food	<p>Interpretive discussion of body positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Are people sharing food</li> <li>● Do their bodily positions share similarities or are they completely different?</li> <li>● What is the agency of the food here?</li> </ul>