

Teacher

l...um l



# I...um I

## Dear Teacher,

You and your class will soon be going to see the production *I... um I* from Het Houten Huis, the visual music-theatre company from the north of the Netherlands. It is a good idea to prepare your visit beforehand well, so that your pupils will be able to sit in the auditorium more calmly and they will be more receptive to the performance. To allow the experience 'to stick', to make a lasting impression, it is also important for the children to digest the experience afterwards. In order to help you achieve this, we have developed teaching material in the form of cards with tasks on them.

The cards consist of:

- Three teacher cards with handy tips
- 'Before' and 'After' cards for preparing to see and, afterwards, to absorb the production.

Tips:

- There is always one 'start' card for both the 'Before' and 'After' cards. You can decide yourself in which order you want to do the rest of the cards.
- Sometimes you need things to undertake a task. These are stated on the card. For films, downloads and links, see [www.hethoutenhuis.org/lesmateriaal](http://www.hethoutenhuis.org/lesmateriaal)

Enjoy yourself.

# I...um I

Teacher



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## Just before you go to the theatre

It's now time. You are about to take your class to the theatre to see *I... um I*, a production for anyone who has ever been at odds with themselves.

Prepare well by:

- being on time. At least 15 minutes early.
- making sure that everyone has been to the toilet before going into the auditorium. Everyone is meant to stay in their place while the performance is on.
- telling the children that the audience is very important: if the audience is concentrating, then the actors can do that as well and they will perform their best. Theatre is made together.
- asking everyone to make sure that their telephone is switched off. Not just the sound, because the screens light up in the dark.

Enjoy the show. See you in the theatre!

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## Play with the form

You don't have to work in the classroom. Whatever you do, experiment with the form of the task that is described on the card.

You can, for example, work in groups or in pairs, but you can also split up the class and work with two cards at the same time. You can then select a multi-lingual task for one group and a movement task for the other.

If you are short of time, you can save the questions after a 'doing task' for the next day.

The most important thing is that you and the group experience the production, the story and the subject together in a way that suits you all. It is therefore good if not just the head, but the body, emotion and senses are involved.

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## Open questions

When you want to discuss a production (or a subject), it is a good idea to ask an 'open' question. There is no right or wrong answer when watching theatre, that's what's so good about it. It seems so simple, but you can easily find yourself asking a question that's going in a particular direction or where you expect a particular answer...

Based on *I... um I*, ask yourself a number of open questions to practise.

Complete these sentences:

Imagine that... ?

What if we knew that... ?

How would it change if... ? Why...

What is more important, ... or ... ?



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Before  
Start card



# I...um I

Duration — 20 minutes

You will need —

The production teaser  
on the website

## Dear Class,

You will soon be going to the theatre to see I um... I. It is a show for anyone who has ever been at odds with themselves.

What do we mean, 'at odds with yourself'?

Are you sometimes at odds with yourself? Or do you sometimes 'fight with yourself'? What happens then?

### TEASER

In the show, you will see a man with a fish in his house. To get an idea of what you are going to see, watch the teaser for the show.

After that, you can talk about the following questions in pairs:

- What did you see and hear in the clip?
- Did you notice anything about the scenery?
- How do you think the man feels?
- What do you think the show is about?

Enjoy the other cards!

l...um l

Before



# I...um I

Duration — 20 minuten

You will need — Pen,  
big piece of paper,  
things to draw with

## Investigation into your *I... um I*

You are going to do research. This research is about yourself. Who are you actually? What makes you 'you'?

You research that in the tasks.

Take a big sheet of paper and draw or write on it:

who you are

where you live

who your friends and family are

what you love

what you are afraid of

what you really, really want or wish

what is important to you

what you do well

what you like doing the most

what your biggest dream is

In pairs, look at each other's drawings. Ask for explanation if you don't understand anything.

Conduct a discussion with the class.

What did you notice? What didn't you know?

Were there things that you recognised about yourself?

Or things that you didn't recognise at all?

Do you have more than one 'I'?

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Before



# I...um I

Duration — 10 minutes  
You will need — Pen,  
paper, timer

## I have to

In this game, we are going to make a list of everything you 'have to' do.

There are two rules:

1. Every sentence that you write down has to begin with 'I have to...'
2. You have to write for three minutes. Your pen must not leave the paper (except to continue to write). If you don't think you know what to write any more, repeat 'I have to...' without finishing the sentence until you do know what to write.

Set the timer to three minutes.

Have you started the timer? Then start.

Once you have finished, you can look at your own list. Are there 'have tos' where you agree that you have to do them? Are there 'have tos' that you never want to have to do again?

### Extra:

Do the same with the sentence: 'I feel free when...'  
What are the differences compared to the other list?

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After  
Start card



# I...um I

Duration – 10 minutes  
(+drawing task 30 mins)  
You will need – Pen,  
paper, drawing things,  
magazines

## What happened in the show?

When you get back to school, it's a good idea to think about what you saw.

- If you only had one word to describe what the show was about, what you have seen, what would you say?

Write the words on the board. Choose three and make a picture of each one. You can use pens, paper, felt-tip pens, pencils, paint, crayons, pictures cut out of a magazine, fabric... whatever you want. Hang the drawing up in the classroom. You can also take a photo and send it to us. We collect all your pictures on our website.

Extra questions to discuss:

- You saw the man and his alter ego, can you describe the differences between the two?
- How did the man feel about his fish? Do you know someone or something where you feel the same way?
- Who or what does the fish in the show represent?
- Why does the house turn round, do you think?
- What happened at the end? With the house, the man and the fish?
- Do you sometimes feel 'the wrong way up'?

Thanks for coming and have fun with the other cards.



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After



# I...um I

## Statue with feelings

In pairs, talk about which feelings you saw the man in the show have. Try out how the emotions look together. What happens to your face, how does your body look and what sounds do you make?

We're now going to make a sculpture.

One of you is the sculptor, the other is a big lump of clay. Model each other into a sculpture that matches the feelings that you have just discussed. Use the whole body, from the face to the feet.

When you are the sculpture, how does your body feel to be in that position? Is it nice? Not nice? Tense? Relaxed? Do you feel warm anywhere? Cold?

Swop roles and do the same with another moment from the show. Keep going until you have imitated at least four emotions or feelings.

Choose one of the sculptures and show it to the rest of the class.

Do you recognise the emotions?  
When do you feel that yourself?

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After



# I...um I

Duration – One hour  
You will need –  
Camera, pen, paper,  
drawing things  
[janvonholleben.com](http://janvonholleben.com)  
[shauntan.net](http://shauntan.net)

## Out a dream

Things happen in the show that probably couldn't happen in real life, but they can in a dream. They say something about how the man feels. A fish flew through the house, the man found his own head in the microwave oven and the house spun around him... Can you say what these 'dream images' say about the feelings of the man?

You are going to make your own 'dream image'. Think of a strange image, something that couldn't exist in real life. An image that gives you a strong feeling. It might be something funny, scary or sad, for example. Whatever it is, it must be impossible in real life.

For inspiration, look at magic-realistic painters, like Shaun Tan or at the website of the artist Jan von Holleben. They have people flying in the clouds or make monsters come to life.

Form groups and decide whose strange dream image or images you want to make. You can draw the image or cut and paste things or take a photo. Make a plan for your image. What do you need to make it? Where are you going to work? Who are you going to do it with? We want to see the images you make. Send them to: [info@hethoutenhuis.org](mailto:info@hethoutenhuis.org)

l...um l

After



# I...um I

Duration – 20 minutes

You will need –  
Filmlink on the  
website

## Making music

You can make music everywhere, with everything.  
The man also makes music in different ways.  
Can you remember how?

See the film on the website.

And? Had you remembered everything or were there things that you had forgotten?

Look around you and see if there are things with which you can make music yourself. If you can't find anything where you are, you can always see if you can make music from your own body. Can you make music from an object or your body? Try it.

How does your music sound if:

- you are very happy?
- or very cross?
- or frightened?
- you are in a hurry?
- you are on holiday and you are just being lazy and lying about?

What did you notice about making music in these different ways?