

Walking Through

Performance: Divide the actors into groups of four to five members. Give each group a situation, preferably written on an index card, where people are “walking through” a particular setting. Each group has a few minutes to plan the action. The group members can announce the situation with a title beforehand, or the audience can guess *after* the actors have completed their scene. Don’t forget to collect the cards!

***Advance preparation:** Put the situations on index cards.

Suggested situations: Pretend you’re walking . . .

- through tall underbrush.
- through a dark, dangerous alley.
- across a wide street on a rainy, windy night.
- in the burning desert, looking for water.
- through a forest of man-eating plants.
- in outer space, weightless.
- down a road of sticky asphalt and tar.
- across a log over a ravine full of crocodiles.
- across a street of broken glass.
- through a huge bowl of whipped cream.
- from the cold outdoors into a warm room.
- through a snowstorm.
- through a swamp.
- down a cold mountain stream.
- through a bowl of chewed-up bubble gum.
- across a room of bouncy springs.
- in a bowl of feathers.
- underwater.



Greeting by Number

Actors arrange themselves in two lines of equal number, with those in one line facing — from across the room — those in the other line. One side of the room is called *side A*; the other, *side B*. At a signal from the group leader, pairs opposite each other advance toward each other and meet in the middle, greet each other, and cross to the other side.

However, instead of using words of greeting, the actors use numbers. The persons who have come from *side A* always say, “1, 2, 3, 4;” and those from *side B* always say, “5, 6, 7, 8.” The persons from *side A* say their numbers as if they were saying, “Hi, how are you?” The persons from *side B* say their numbers as if they were saying, “Fine, thank you very much.”

At this point, all group members will profess great confusion; it’s time for a demonstration, with you taking the part of *side A* and a volunteer that of *side B*. Begin from opposite sides. Greet each other, using numbers only, and cross to the other side. Have everyone practice twice to nail down the procedure.

Now the fun begins — the actors move across the room, and greet each other in different ways:

- like old enemies
- like snobs