
Be-an-Animal Group Pantomime

Performance: A group of six to nine actors pantomimes a single animal that moves across the stage. Sound effects are encouraged.

Example: Seven performers act out an elephant. Three form the head, with one actor for each ear and one for the trunk. The other four represent the legs and tail. The elephant lumbers heavily around the stage, picking up peanuts with its trunk and trumpeting loudly.

Preparation time: 20 to 25 minutes

Performance time: two to three minutes

Stage materials: chairs

Suggestions for conducting the activity: As with the "Be-a-Vehicle" and "Be-a-Household-Appliance" exercises, group brainstorming and some coaching help overcome the occasional reactions of "We can't do this!" Larger groups work best for this activity. Each group should try to get its animal to do as much as possible — sit down, eat, settle down to sleep, make noises. Inevitably, some group will want to represent *all* bodily functions; a few words about tastefulness on stage might be necessary.

An excellent way to end this session is with the entire class of performers forming one huge mythical beast — a winged dragon, for example.
