

The Quick Guide To: Guerrilla Theatre

As presented in an FYI training
led by Youth Empowered Solutions (YES!)
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Goal: Guerrilla Theatre – also known as a flash mob, or flash performance – is a surprise performance in a public place to an unsuspecting audience.

The goal of guerrilla theatre as an advocacy tool is to draw attention to an issue through performance.

Examples:

“Migration is Beautiful” Guerrilla Theatre about Immigration Reform
Performance at DePaul University, May 2013 – watch at:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdO_ZesKliE



Types of Guerrilla Theatre can include:

- Dramatic plays, performances
- Live presentations of shocking data
- Flash mobs
- Singing or chanting in a quiet space
- Silent Plays
- Setting up visual props to represent an issue

*FYI is a CEFS initiative with numerous community partners; funded by
W.K.Kellogg, Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of NC, and a NIFA
Beginning Farmer and Rancher subgrant of the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle*

How-To:

1. Brainstorm a creative, attention-grabbing way to present your issue
 2. Write each person's part into a script to be shared with all performers
 3. Memorize your part!
 4. Practice as a group!
 5. Plan to hold your performance where many people will see it – ideas include the school cafeteria, an assembly, and a public park or other public space.
 6. Though guerilla theatre is meant to be a surprise tactic, it's important to let some people know – for example, get approval from the administration before performing at a school assembly.
 7. If it is a speaking performance, speak loudly and clearly to get the crowd's attention!
- Have someone planted in the audience to film your performance and the reaction of the crowd – you can use this on youtube, and facebook, etc.

Additional Resources:

8 Tips for Organizing a Flash Mob – Great handout explaining how to organize a large-scale public flash mob.

http://www.caw.ca/assets/images/8_tips_for_running_a_flash_mob.pdf

A silent guerrilla theatre piece (“flash freeze” – all participants frozen in still positions) as advocacy for Syria: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGiA4orSJ5U>



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