



Animal Studies

Lots of professional actors create their characters body and voice qualities by observing other people and even by watching animals!

They look at the way animals move their bodies or even the noises they make and try to copy it either fully or partly to add a different dimension to their character...

When we're devising theatre or making up new characters it can be useful to start with watching animals to inspire ideas for what the characters in our play might be like!

When observing an animal, you should notice the following things about them:

- How do they stand up/walk/move around?
- Do they move quickly or slowly?
- How big are their arms or legs and how do they use them?
- How do they interact with each other?
- What do they remind you of?
- How do they eat their food?
- Listen to the noises they make- are they loud or quiet?
- Do they make noises with their mouth or does their body make noise when it moves?

Try and notice everything you can about the animal, write it down. You can then start to copy some of the things the animal does copy it 100%, then maybe 50% you 50% animal - how can you combine human movements with the animals movements?

Once you have an idea of how this character might move, try and create a character profile about them- ask questions like:

What is their name? How old are they? Where do they live? Do they have a job? What's their favourite thing to do on Saturday afternoons? Do they have any family?

After you've answered lots of questions about them, you can then start to shape what their story might be and create a piece of theatre! When acting it out, remember the animal which your character is based on and keep those qualities.

You could do this with an animal in your garden, your pet or Chester Zoo have lots of wonderful videos of exciting animals you could study to start creating your characters.

www.youtube.com/chesterzoo

Once you have your character and their profile, imagine a place they might go and start your story or script. Why not start with sending them on a holiday? Or at a huge life event like- their wedding! Get creative & have fun!

Extra link: www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zc8tgk7/revision/1