

POOR ALBERT

This is a play about group pressure and self-confidence. The central character is Albert. He starts with very little self-confidence. There are two main groups - the greens and the yellows - each with a leader. There is a third group - the spectators. When the play is performed with an audience, the spectators can sit among the audience.

The play has 26 parts. Advice on how the number of parts can be adjusted to the number of students in the class can be found after the play together with advice on other issues.

The characters:

Albert

Yellow leader

8 members of the yellow group, Yellow 1, Yellow 2 and so on.

Green leader

8 members of the green group, Green 1, Green 2 and so on.

7 spectators, Spectator 1, Spectator 2 and so on.

The set: No elaborate set is necessary for this play. Even a full-scale production may take place in a classroom or gymnasium.

Reading the play: Although there are 6 scenes in Poor Albert, there is no break between the scenes. It has been divided into scenes to show where there can be breaks if you need to break it down for more detailed preparation. It is best read through or performed as one complete piece. You can do this easily in one 40 minutes lesson.

Scene 1:

The stage is empty. Yellow leader enters from the left with a yellow scarf in his hand and a yellow scarf round his neck.

YELLOW LEADER: Ah, good old yellow. I love yellow.

Green leader enters from the right with a green scarf in his hand and a green scarf round his neck.

GREEN LEADER: What did you say?

YELLOW LEADER: I love yellow.

GREEN LEADER: Green is better ... much better.

YELLOW LEADER: No. You're wrong there. I prefer yellow.

GREEN LEADER: You do? You're crazy. Green's my colour, and I'm going to stay green.

Albert enters. He stands between Yellow Leader and Green Leader. Yellow Leader offers Albert his scarf and smiles.

YELLOW LEADER: Albert! Come on. Look. See what I've got.

Albert goes up to Yellow Leader and feels the scarf.

It's very nice, isn't it?

Green Leader holds out his hand with the scarf and smiles.

GREEN LEADER: Albert? Come on. Go on. Have a look at mine.

Albert becomes doubtful. He goes up to Green Leader and feels his scarf.

YELLOW LEADER: Oh, Albert, don't you think that yellow is beautiful?

Albert looks doubtful.

Yellow is a very nice colour, really very nice.

Albert lets go of the green scarf and goes back towards Yellow Leader.

That's right. That's better.

GREEN LEADER: But there's something special about green, isn't there?

Albert turns round and goes back towards Green Leader.

YELLOW LEADER: But you can't do that. You can't go back.

Albert stops between Yellow Leader and Green Leader.

GREEN LEADER: (*tempting*) Come on, Albert.

YELLOW LEADER: (*tempting*) Come on, Albert ... my friend.

GREEN LEADER: (*tempting*) Look, green's lovely, isn't it?

YELLOW LEADER: (*tempting*) But yellow is much better, isn't it?

*Albert looks from side to side. Yellow Leader and Green Leader approach.
Albert starts to get nervous. He chooses the green scarf, and puts it on.*

GREEN LEADER: That's right. That's the colour for you.

ALBERT: It's nice and warm.

GREEN LEADER: Oh yes, and it suits you.

YELLOW LEADER: Well, in my opinion, yellow would suit you much better.

GREEN LEADER: Oh, come on.

ALBERT: Do you think so?

YELLOW LEADER: I'm quite sure.

ALBERT: Well ... er ... as you can see ... I've chosen ... I've made up my mind.

YELLOW LEADER: Yes, it looks like it. I can't believe it. In fact, I'm astonished. I always thought you had a good taste.

ALBERT: Did you?

YELLOW LEADER: Oh yes. You had a sense of beauty and quality. You were always able to make the right decision. You were confident.

ALBERT: Well, I still am.

He takes off the the scarf and gives it to Green Leader without looking at him. To Yellow Leader:

I just wanted to try it on.

YELLOW LEADER: Of course. Why not! Very sensible. I would have done the same myself. You've made the right choice. Here you are.

Yellow Leader gives the yellow scarf to Albert. Albert puts it on.

That's it. I must say it suits you. Congratulations. You'll never regret it. Goodbye.

Yellow Leader shakes hands with Albert and goes out to the left. Albert looks at the scarf and smiles.

Scene 2:

Green 1 enters from the right, wearing a green scarf.

GREEN 1 What's that? A yellow scarf?

ALBERT: Yes, it's nice, isn't it?

GREEN 1: Well, to be honest, I think it's a very peculiar idea.

ALBERT: Do you?

Green 2 enters from the right, also wearing a green scarf.

GREEN 1: *(To Green 2)* Hello, look at him.

GREEN 2: What's that? *(To Albert)* Do you prefer yellow?

ALBERT: Yes, I do.

GREEN 2: I see. *(To Green 1)* Funny Idea, isn't it?

ALBERT: Is there anything wrong with yellow?

GREEN 2: Oh no. It's a free country ... you can do what you want ... even if it is rather unusual.

Green 3 enters from the right, wearing a green scarf. (To Green 3)

Have you seen that awful sight?

GREEN 3: Oh no! What's that he's got on?

GREEN 2: Well, I think it's a scarf.

GREEN 3: So he prefers yellow, does he?

GREEN 2: It certainly looks like it.

GREEN 3: What a shame. Poor guy. Ah well, I don't suppose everyone can have a good taste.

Green 4 enters from the right, wearing a green scarf. He looks at Albert.

GREEN 4: Goodness gracious. *(To Green 3)* Is he ill?

GREEN 3: No. I'm afraid he's in good health.

GREEN 2: You know, some people are always trying to attract attention. I suppose it's his way of doing it.

GREEN 1: That's probably all he could think of doing.

Green 5 enters from the right, wearing a green scarf. He looks at Albert, puts his first finger to his forehead and turns it.

GREEN 5: Pss ... psss ... I've never seen anything like that.

Green 6 enters from the right, wearing a green scarf. He looks at Albert.

GREEN 6: What on earth is that?

GREEN 5: It's unbelievable. He's wearing a yellow scarf! What can I say?

GREEN 6: Nothing. I've got nothing to say either. I'm astonished.

Albert feels very uncomfortable. Green Leader stretches out his hand with the green scarf.

GREEN LEADER: Would you like to try it on again? I know it isn't the colour you wanted, but it's warm and soft.

Albert feels tempted, but hesitates. Green 7 and 8 enter from the right, wearing green scarves. They look at Albert.

GREEN 7: Good grief!

GREEN 8: You aren't serious, are you?

GREEN 7: *(To Green 8)* I've never seen anything like that before. What do you think?

GREEN 8: I don't know. I suppose the world is full of crazy people like that.

Green Leader stretches out his hand with the green scarf.

GREEN LEADER: There's still time for you to change your mind, you know.

Albert takes off the yellow scarf and lets it fall to the floor. He takes the green scarf from Green Leader and puts it on.

Now that feels better, doesn't it?

ALBERT: Oh yes.

GREEN LEADER: And it suits you.

The green group change their attitude towards Albert. They smile, pat him on the back, shake hands etc.

GREEN 1: Look! What a difference.

GREEN 2: Sorry about what I said. I was wrong.

GREEN 3: So was I. You really are all right after all.

GREEN 4: I'm very happy we've met.

GREEN 5: So am I. I apologize. I thought you were nothing but a crackpot.

GREEN 6: Just forget all about it. Now you're just like one of us.

GREEN 7: Our friend forever.

GREEN 8: A member of the group.

ALL GREENS: The green gang.

GREEN 8: See you later.

The green group go out to the right, whistling together a cheerful tune.

GREEN LEADER: Well, after all, green IS the best, isn't it?

ALBERT: Yes, you're right.

GREEN LEADER: Goodbye.

Green Leader goes out to the right.

Scene 3:

Yellow 1 enters from the left, wearing a yellow scarf, and looks at Albert.

YELLOW 1: Do you vote for green?

ALBERT: Yes.

YELLOW 1: I see.

Yellow 2 enters from the left, wearing a yellow scarf. (To Yellow 2) Look. He votes for green.

YELLOW 2: Is that true? ... *(To Albert)* You're not serious, are you?

Yellow 3 enters from the left wearing a yellow scarf.

Look at him. He votes for green.

YELLOW 3: Good grief. Isn't yellow good enough for you?

Yellow 4 enters from the left, wearing a yellow scarf.

Have you heard? Yellow isn't good enough for him. He votes for green.

YELLOW 4: Green! You must be joking.

YELLOW 3: I'm not! Look!

YELLOW 4: You're right. Why?

YELLOW 3: I don't know. I don't suppose he has ever thought about it.

Yellow 5 enters from the left, wearing a yellow scarf.

YELLOW 5: What's that? A green scarf? Are you ill?

YELLOW 2: No, he's not ill, just crazy.

Yellow 6 enters from the left wearing a yellow scarf.

YELLOW 6: Who's crazy?

ALL YELLOWS: He is.

YELLOW 5: He's only trying to be different.

YELLOW 6: He IS different.

Yellow 7 and 8 enter from the left wearing yellow scarves.

YELLOW 7: What's the matter?

YELLOW 6: Look at him. A poor guy hooked on green.

YELLOW 8: Are you sure?

YELLOW 7: Look at his scarf. Have you ever seen anything like that before?

YELLOW 8: No. Never.

YELLOW 7: Decent people wear yellow scarves.

YELLOW 8: He has a yellow scarf! Look! He's just dropped it on the floor. ... You've just dropped it, haven't you?

ALBERT: Oh yes ... so I have.

Albert picks up the yellow scarf. He takes off the green scarf and puts on the yellow. He drops the yellow scarf on the floor. The yellow group change their attitude towards Albert.

YELLOW 1: Fine. That makes all the difference.

YELLOW 2. Oh, I understand now.

YELLOW 3: So do I. I suppose these things happen.

YELLOW 4: Of course they do. But he's all right now, isn't he?

YELLOW 5: I'm glad we've had the chance to meet you.

YELLOW 6: Now you're just like one of us.

YELLOW 7: A member of the group.

ALL YELLOWS: The yellow gang.

YELLOW 8: See you later.

The yellow group go out to the left. Notice that Yellow Leader has remained off-stage during this scene.

Scene 4:

The green group (but nor Green Leader) enter from the right, whistling the same tune which they were whistling when they left earlier. Albert panics. He takes off the yellow scarf and puts on the green one. The green group smile and nod and walk out again still whistling. The yellow group (but not Yellow Leader) return, whistling the same tune. Albert changes his scarf. The yellows smile and nod and go out again, still whistling. The greens return, whistling. Albert changes his scarf again. His hands are shaking. The greens smile and nod and leave. The yellows return. Albert takes off the green scarf, but at the same time the greens return. Both groups stop whistling. Albert is standing with a yellow scarf in one hand and a green one in the other. There is a group on each side of him. The groups look at him, as if they do not believe what they see. Albert is very nervous. The groups clear their throats. Suddenly Albert puts on both scarves.

YELLOW 1: He can't do that, can he?

YELLOW 2: No. I've never seen anything like this. It's disgusting. I feel sick.

GREEN 1: Just look at him. Both green AND yellow. Is that allowed?

GREEN 2: No. He's mixed up the colours.

YELLOW 3: It must be against the law. It must be. What do you think?

YELLOW 4: Of course it is. I think we'd better call the police.

GREEN 3: Yes. He must be a criminal. He's probably got a secret plan.

GREEN 4: I don't think so. Take a good look at him. He looks so peaceful.

YELLOW 5: Two scarves? Two colours? I wonder ... this is just what we need, isn't it?

YELLOW 6: Wait a minute ... two colours instead of one.

GREEN 5: And two scarves?

YELLOW 5: Think about it. It's not that bad an idea.

GREEN 4: Why haven't we thought of this before?

GREEN 5: I think it's an ideal solution.

YELLOW 4: Why don't we all do the same?

YELLOW 5: Yes, why not?

YELLOW 6: Yes, you're right. This is amazing. It could save the world.

GREEN 6: Oh come on. Isn't that going a bit too far?

YELLOW 7: Not at all. I think I agree. This is exactly what we need.

GREEN 7: You're right. It's a very good idea.

YELLOW 7: *(To Albert)* May we ask you a question?

ALBERT: Certainly. Go ahead.

YELLOW 7: Can we do what you've done?

GREEN 8: Please let us.

ALBERT: Go ahead. There's nothing stopping you.

YELLOW 8: Just a minute. It's all very well for you to say that, but what am I going to do? I've only got one scarf!

During the last lines everyone has moved so that they are no longer standing in two groups, but are all mixed up. A green is standing beside a yellow. Albert goes up to Green 1 and Yellow 1 and puts their yellow and green scarves round both their necks. He then does the same to the 2's, 3's, 4's etc. ... until everyone is sharing two scarves.

GREEN 1: What a surprise.

YELLOW 1: I never dreamed this could happen.

GREEN 2: It feels good.

YELLOW 2: It's wonderful.

GREEN 3: He's a genius.

YELLOW 3: Two scarves for the price of one.

GREEN 4: This is the way to unite the world.

YELLOW 4: Why did we never think of this before?

GREEN 5: This is co-existence.

YELLOW 5: Peaceful co-existence.

GREEN 6: We're going to live like this forever, aren't we?

YELLOW 6: Of course we are.

GREEN 7: A new life.

YELLOW 7: A new world.

GREEN 8: New friends.

YELLOW 8: And no enemies at all.

Scene 5:

Yellow leader enter from the left, wearing his yellow scarf.

YELLOW LEADER: What's going on here? Are you crazy? Have you gone mad? You're getting mixed up with that crowd.

Green leader enters from the right wearing the green scarf.

GREEN LEADER: What's going on here? Are you crazy? Have you gone mad? You're getting mixed up with that lot.

YELLOW LEADER: You've got nothing in common with those idiots.

GREEN LEADER: Nothing at all.

YELLOW LEADER: You can't wear two scarves at the same time.

GREEN LEADER: You'll have to get rid of one of them.

YELLOW LEADER: There are two possibilities.

BOTH LEADERS: *(together)* And when you have two possibilities, you have to choose either one or the other. That's logical.

ALBERT: We want to have both.

BOTH LEADERS: *(together)* No, you don't.

ALBERT: Yes. Look at them.

The mixed group smile happily. They start to hum together and sway from side to side.

GREEN LEADER: *(To Albert)* Do you have any idea what you're doing? You're bringing the world to the edge of total disaster.

ALBERT: Not my world.

GREEN LEADER: Take off that yellow scarf. Now. At once.

YELLOW LEADER: Why not the green one?

GREEN LEADER: All right. Either the yellow or the green. Make up your mind before it's too late. One way or the other.

YELLOW LEADER: Choose!

Albert takes a scarf in each hand. He closes his eyes.

YELLOW LEADER: Say something.

SPECTATOR 1: He can't see any difference. Can't you see that?

GREEN LEADER: Will you be quiet, please.

SPECTATOR 2: No, we won't. The green one is just as good as the yellow

one.

Albert smells the scarves. His eyes are still closed.

SPECTATOR 3: They smell the same.

SPECTATOR 4: There's no difference.

YELLOW LEADER: Shut up.

Albert holds the scarves to his face and rubs them against it.

SPECTATOR 5: The green one is just as soft as the yellow one. He can't tell them a part.

Albert stretches out the scarves, his eyes still closed.

SPECTATOR 6: The green isn't longer than the yellow. They are identical.

GREEN LEADER: No they are not. They are different colours.

SPECTATOR 7: But that doesn't matter.

YELLOW LEADER: Mind your own business. You just don't know what you're talking about.

SPECTATOR 8: Yes, we do. Look at them.

The group of mixed greens and yellows are still humming together. They still look very happy.

ALBERT: I'm beginning to see that I've made an important discovery. Happiness means mixing the colours. When the world realises what I've done ... just think ... terrific!

SPECTATOR 1: That's right.

SPECTATOR 2: Mix up the colours.

SPECTATOR 3: Come on, Albert.

SPECTATOR 4: We're waiting for you.

SPECTATOR 5: The world is waiting.

GREEN LEADER: Stop this nonsense. (*To Albert*) I thought you were a harmless joke who couldn't tell green from yellow ... a fool who couldn't even make up his mind.

ALBERT: But you were wrong?

GREEN LEADER: Don't be cheeky.

SPECTATOR 8: (*To Green Leader*) It's you that's wrong.

SPECTATOR 7: Albert's good.

SPECTATOR 6: (*To Green Leader*) You are not.

GREEN LEADER: Just wait and see. This game isn't finished yet, you know.

YELLOW LEADER: (*To the mixed group*) Friends! Where are your manners? You're not behaving very well ... not well at all. But I'm not angry. You didn't make up that story yourselves. He did. He's the guilty one. Come on. Come back ... and I'll forgive you.

GREEN LEADER: That's right. I'm disappointed too. You've failed to keep up our high standards. You really ought to be ashamed of yourselves, letting me down like that. But I'm not angry. If you come back, I'll forgive you.

YELLOW LEADER: Come on. You haven't got time to think about it. Come on. Close ranks. Stay together.

SPECTATOR 1: Don't! Don't do it!

GREEN LEADER: You know where you belong. Hurry up!

YELLOW LEADER: That's the spirit. That's the idea.

SPECTATOR 2: No, it's not.

YELLOW LEADER: Quick, hurry up.

GREEN LEADER: Hurry up, quick.

The mixed group divide in two under the command of Yellow Leader and Green Leader who shout. The yellow group fall into line behind Yellow Leader, the green group behind Green Leader.

BOTH LEADERS: Come on, quick, into line, hurry up ...

YELLOW LEADER: I'm glad you've come to your senses.

GREEN LEADER: Never do that again, never.

Yellow Leader and Green Leader stand in front of their groups and conduct them as if they were two choirs. The groups speak rhythmically and with their voices getting louder and louder.

YELLOW GROUP: Let us keep together. Unity makes strong.

GREEN GROUP: The enemy is watching. Soon he'll come along.

YELLOW GROUP: The enemy resorts to force.

GREEN GROUP: Stay firm and fight the course.

YELLOW GROUP: We have to fight.

GREEN GROUP: Day and night.

YELLOW GROUP: Fight for yellow.

GREEN GROUP: Fight for green.

YELLOW GROUP: Fight for yellow.

GREEN GROUP: Fight for green.

The two groups start marking time on the spot.

YELLOW GROUP: Fight for yellow.

GREEN GROUP: Fight for green.

They start to march out shouting their slogans leaving Albert alone on stage. The groups continue shouting off-stage. Albert starts to get worried.

Scene 6:

The green group (but not Green Leader) march in, now wearing green caps.

ALBERT: Oh ... so you've got caps now.

No one answers. They look straight ahead.

Do you like them? ... Why don't you answer?

GREEN 1 We are not allowed to talk to you.

GREEN 2: He says that you are dangerous.

SPECTATOR 2: That's nonsense.

The yellow group (but not Yellow Leader) march in, wearing yellow caps.

ALBERT: So you've got caps too. Why, may I ask?

They look straight ahead. No one answers.

Was it your own decision? ... Was it? ... Do you like them? ... Why don't you answer me?

YELLOW 1: He says you're a threat to our security.

SPECTATOR 3: Oh come on.

SPECTATOR 4: Then he's a liar.

The two leaders enter. Each has one arm behind his back. They go up to Albert.

YELLOW LEADER: I very seldom make a mistake.

GREEN LEADER: This time there aren't going to be any mistakes.

YELLOW LEADER: Decent people only have one colour.

GREEN LEADER: Remember that. One. Only one.

Yellow Leader and Green Leader stretch out their hands to Albert. Yellow Leader is holding out a yellow cap, Green Leader is holding out a green cap.

YELLOW LEADER: Now, make your choice.

GREEN LEADER: Either green or yellow.

SPECTATOR 5: Don't do it!

YELLOW LEADER: You can't avoid taking sides.

GREEN LEADER: Make up your mind.

SPECTATOR 8: You don't need a cap.

YELLOW LEADER: Yes, he does.

GREEN LEADER: You can't close your eyes now. You'll have to face the facts.

Albert takes both caps.

YELLOW LEADER: This won't do.

GREEN LEADER: Go on. You can't stop.

ALBERT: What do you mean?

GREEN LEADER: You'll have to put one of them on.

YELLOW LEADER: Hurry up.

GREEN LEADER: Well ... so ... you won't put one on. I see ... then we'll have to help you, won't we?

Green Leader signals to the green group. They point at Albert as if they had rifles and were going to shoot him.

It's time to come to your senses ... ONE ...TWO ...

Albert puts on the green cap, letting go of the yellow one.

YELLOW LEADER: I see. So that's what you've chosen, is it?

GREEN LEADER: Yes. The right choice. Now we are ready. Now we'll win.

SPECTATOR 6: No, you won't.

GREEN LEADER: Yes we will. There are more of us ... thanks to Albert.
(To his group) Are you ready?

GREEN GROUP: Yes! Yes! Yes!

Albert puts the yellow cap on top of the green cap.

GREEN LEADER: What do you think you're doing? You look ridiculous.

ALBERT: That's OK with me. I don't mind that.

GREEN LEADER: We're going to fight. Listen, man, you can't wear two caps on the battlefield.

GREEN 2: General, the enemy is approaching.

GREEN LEADER: The enemy?

GREEN 3: Yes! Look!

The yellow group have started marking time on the spot. Yellow Leader is marking time in front of them.

GREEN LEADER: Come on. Quick march.

The green group start marking time in the same way as the yellows. The groups shout "fight for green" and "fight for yellow". Each group is facing

the audience. The two leaders are marking time in front of them, each with his back to his group, so that everyone is facing out to the front. Albert is shuffling along among them. He doesn't know what to do.

SPECTATOR 7: Albert, do something! For God's sake, do something.

Albert goes behind the groups and starts exchanging their caps and scarves. He continues until everybody in the two groups, except the leaders is wearing a differently coloured cap and scarf. As soon as a person gets a new scarf or cap, he stops shouting. Only the leaders go on shouting ... even when everyone else has stopped.

YELLOW LEADER: Fight for yellow!

GREEN LEADER: Fight for green!

YELLOW LEADER: We shall keep together.

GREEN LEADER: Unity makes strong.

THE MIXED GROUP: If we keep together, we can sing a song.

Yellow Leader and Green Leader turn and look at the group. The two leaders are terrified.

If we keep together, there will be no fight.

Let us work together. That idea is bright.

ALBERT: *(To the leaders)* Would you like to join them?

YELLOW LEADER: No! Never!

GREEN LEADER: I want to win.

ALBERT: What would you like to win?

GREEN LEADER: The victory, of course. What else?

YELLOW LEADER: We want two scarves. Not one.

ALBERT: Come here both of you.

They go up to Albert. He puts their scarves round each other's neck.

Two people, two colours. Now you are one.

SPECTATOR 7: Tie a knot.

ALBERT: Even better.

GREEN 1: Make sure it's a strong knot.

ALBERT: Don't worry. This knot will not come undone. This will keep them together.

SPECTATOR 1: Then we'll always know where they are!

YELLOW 1: Look! ... I think they are starting to like each other.

ALBERT: Yes ... look ... they're smiling ... they're holding hands.

SPECTATOR 8: That's a real knot.

The end.

TEACHERS' NOTES

The '*he*' in the script could just as well be '*she*'. All parts can be cast by both boys and girls or mixed groups. Even the part of Albert. You are free to change his name.

If you want, you can end the play with a song.

What clothes your actors wear will need some care. The important thing is that their clothes should form a neutral background for the scarves and caps. If you do not have scarves, you may use T-shirts, school ties, large coloured badges or ribbons or anything else which can act as a group

symbol. Then of course you will have to change the words in the play. If you do not have coloured caps the easiest and cheapest material for making the caps is cardboard.

The play has 26 parts, but it is unlikely that you will have that exact number of students.

Less than 20 students: Delete the spectators and their lines, except at the end of the last scene. These lines can be given to members of the green and yellow groups. Alternatively, the spectators' lines can be given to one student. Similarly, the groups can be made smaller and their lines 'doubled', ie, one student reads two parts.

20 students: Keep Albert and the two leaders, the two groups of 8, and have one student read all the spectators' lines.

20 - 26 students: One person in each group will have to read an extra part.

More than 26 students: You can add more characters to the three groups. Good students can be helped to make up their own lines. Or you may write extra lines. The easiest way to do this is to invent characters who repeat lines. Here is an example from Scene 2 when Green 5 enters.

He enters together with Green 9.

GREEN 5: Pss ... pssss ... I've never seen anything like that. Have you?

GREEN 9: No, I've never seen anything like that either.

Such repetitions are easy to think up and they can make the character amusing if all he ever does is repeat and agree.

A casting problem with this play is whether a boy or girl should play the main three characters. That is something to consider with your class. If you read through the play more than once, which is recommended, try out different people with different parts and discuss the different effects.

If you are going to produce the play, remember that right and left are always as seen from the audience - never the actor's right and left. Pay attention to the entrances and exits of the two groups. As they go in and out whistling, they should walk in step, or dance or march according to the

situation. This has to be rehearsed.

It is also important that the students know where to stand and how and when and where to move. To avoid confusion with 20 people on stage, everyone has to know exactly what (s)he should be doing. This too has to be rehearsed.

Use body language, gestures, body attitude and facial expression. By combining the spoken dialogue with all the non-verbal means used to convey meaning, the communication becomes more complete. All the characters shall act all the time and not remain passive waiting until it is time for their own lines.

Good luck, have a pleasant time.