



ASL SHAKESPEARE PROJECT

LESSON PLAN 5: Signing With Back to Audience

SECTION The Project; SUBSECTION Performance; MOVIE 8 (Cultural References)

OBJECTIVE

Students will determine when it is appropriate to sign with one's back towards the audience.

WHAT TO DO

1. After your class views the *Twelfth Night* DVD, have the class re-enact Maria's lines where she commanded the drunken people to cease and desist.
2. Briefly discuss the idea of signing families in a moving car; the children in the back are able to follow their parents in the front, without the parents moving their faces around.
3. Divide your students into pairs and have them visualize themselves as a parent and a child (sitting behind the parent) conversing while the parent drives the car. The parent picks a topic and proceeds to sign for a few minutes. At the end of the activity, have each "child" retell what her/his parent said. Have the "parent" confirm/correct the retelling.
4. Moving back towards signing with your back towards the audience, have your students categorize which signs are acceptable (when signing backwards). HINT: big and simple signs versus small, centralized, and complicated signs.
5. At the close of this session, have students perform their selected (big) signs with their back towards the other students. They are to evaluate the clarity of the selected signs.