



The Bear
Educational Theatre

www.thebeartheatre.com

Teaching Materials to the show



The Bear
Educational Theatre

*Theatre helping your students
to learn English*

The Detectives

An interactive show
for students of English



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Winner of EU LABEL prize 2004

by David Fisher

EXERCISE 1

The themes of the show

The show is a detective story where a murder takes place in a cabaret show. The three main characters are Sylvie Kay, her jealous husband Michael Kay, and a clown called Christopher O'Connel.

Detectives

Can you name six famous detectives? They can be from books, films, or television series.

A Cabaret

What is a cabaret?

What sort of things do people do in a cabaret show?

If you had to do something in a cabaret show, what would you do?

Jealousy

The character Michael Kay is jealous. What does jealous mean? How would you define it? What is the difference between jealousy and envy?

EXERCISE 2

Two logic problems

The story is actually a big logic problem and we hope that you will be able to solve it and find out who the killer is. Here are two logic problems to practice on (the first one is actually presented at the start of the show).

Logic problem 1

A small town in England has only two hairdressers shops. Only two people in this town cut hair, there are no mirrors etc, so everybody who wants a haircut must go to one of these two. The first hairdresser is called Stanley Smart. Stanley is well-dressed, has a very clean shop and a very nice haircut. The other hairdresser, Roger Rough, is dirty, untidy and has terrible hair. If you were in this town and you wanted a very nice haircut, who would you go to, Stanley Smart or Roger Rough? Why?

Logic problem 2

Downstairs in a house are three light switches which are connected to three light bulbs upstairs. The switches can only be turned on and off (they are not dimmer switches) and there is no possible way to see the light bulbs from where the switches are. The problem is, how can you tell which bulb belongs to which switch if you start downstairs with the switches and then go upstairs only once? (It is possible.)

EXERCISE 3

A section of dialogue from the show

Michael was jealous because his wife Sylvie was having an affair with Christopher, the clown. On the afternoon that Sylvie was murdered, Michael and Sylvie had this argument. We don't know everything that they said because at one point Sylvie spoke too quietly.

Michael - It's too much. You've had other men before, but this time with Christopher it's too much.

Sylvie - You're just jealous Michael. You're always jealous.

Michael - It's different this time. You know that I love you, but you must stop hurting me.

Sylvie - Don't be silly Michael. *(Sylvie turns around and sees Michael holding the bottle of poison)* What are you doing with that bottle?

Michael - Stop hurting me, or I'll kill

Sylvie - Listen you idiot. In two days this cabaret will finish and then *(Sylvie whispers too quietly for the audience to hear.)*

Michael - Sylvie, you play games with me. You're cruel.

Sylvie - I'm not listening to this now. *(Sylvie leaves.)*

EXERCISE 3 continued

How would you describe Sylvie as a character?

How would you describe Michael? Are these words suitable to describe them?

angry selfish indifferent threatening

in love faithful patient desperate

What do you think Sylvie says when she whispers to Michael?

KEY FOR TEACHERS

Cabaret

A cabaret is a form of variety theatre show, which traditionally combines songs, dancing, magic, comedy, and other forms of stage entertainment. A cabaret usually takes place in smaller venues and so wouldn't necessarily have to contain larger circus routines.

Jealousy and Envy

Jealousy - has a romantic element. A person is jealous if the person he or she loves is giving attention to someone else. A Czech translation is 'žárlivost'.

Envy - is related more often to property or possessions. You can envy somebody who has something new, or is going on holiday for example. A Czech translation is 'závist'.

Solutions to the logic problems

Problem 1 - The solution is a part of the show, so you may choose not to give it away in class. The best hairdresser is Roger Rough because if everybody must go to either Stanley or Roger then Stanley cuts Rogers hair, and Roger's hair is bad while Roger cuts Stanley's hair and Stanley's hair is good.

Problem 2 - One of the lights is left switched on. It is clear which switch that light belongs to. Another light is switched on for a few minutes and then switched off. The light upstairs will be off, but if somebody feels the light bulb it will still be warm. The third light is never switched on. The light will be off and the light bulb will be cold.