

## This Is Not A Stick

This activity demonstrates the power of the theatre to create numerous possibilities out of practically nothing. It also stretches the imagination of the students to think in diverse ways.

1. Gather participants in a circle and let them know that this activity should happen in complete silence.
2. Use a broom or mop handle or similar "stick" for this activity. Model how the stick can become an imaginary object. Use the object endowing it with all of the qualities of the imaginary object.
3. Hand the stick to the next person in the circle. She first has to treat it as the object you handed her, then she will transform it into something completely new and hand it to the next person.
4. Continue around the circle.

Note: One actor might swing the stick like a baseball bat. Another might use it as a straw. Another might move it across the ground like a snake or twirl it overhead like a helicopter blade. Each new object must have some sticklike qualities (for example, you can turn the stick into a diving board but not into a swimming pool). Make sure students stay away from using the stick in a violent way and from actually using the stick like a stick (i.e. to beat someone or something).

*This activity was adapted from Greg Atkins's book Improv: A Handbook for Actors, p. 58*