

“Industry Baby”: Surfacing BA Acting and Performance Students’ (Mis)perceptions, hopes, and expectations for entering the Creative Industries

Goals of Workshop:

- To have space to fantasize about career success through visualization and play
- To think about possible barriers to achieving that dream – (personal, social, familial, economic, structural)
- To think about skills and/or experiences that they will need to help them address those barriers

1. Introduction to Research Project and Format of the Workshop
2. “The Industry, Baby” – Mind Mapping Exercise in small groups
Activity: Students are placed in groups of 3-4. First, individually, they are given 8-10 post-it notes to write words that they associate with the word “Industry” (in the context of Acting and Performance). Then the students share their post-it notes and begin to create a mind map, beginning with their individual words, but then extending out. Each group then shares their mind-map with the whole group.
3. “Future Nostalgia”- A Solo Visualization Exercise
Activity: Students are led through a brief relaxation exercise prior to a visualization exercise. Students are asked to imagine themselves 10-15 years in the future having achieved success (self-defined). They are to imagine their professional life: what they are doing (both content and form), where they are doing it, with whom, etc. Students are then asked to write a short script where they are being interviewed by a magazine, newspaper, or website of their choice about their latest project and asked to reflect back on their career. I will provide the first few questions to prompt them, but then let them tailor it to their fantasy. I will ask if students wish to share some examples.
4. “Werk It” – Brainstorming activity in small groups
Activity: Students will share (in broad outlines), what they imagined achieving in the previous exercise. Then the group will brainstorm collectively all of the knowledge, skills, and experiences they think they will need to acquire in order to achieve their goals. The group will then label these things as short term, medium term, or long term activities.
5. Wrap up – Group discussion and response to sequence of activities. Feelings about entering “the industry.” Questions they still have. Desires for how UAL can support them in this transition.