

Dissolving Boundaries :
**The impact of using cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural training and
dramaturgical methods in the construction of theatrical realism.**

Claire Borody

(University of Winnipeg)

While many Canadian theatre students gain academic knowledge of theories of avant-garde and non-realistic theories, much of the public work continues to be of realistic nature. How can acting instructors help students gain from, and make use of, the cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary practical research that is available to them? What happens when the process of character development, even within the context of a realistic play, emerges from training and dramaturgical techniques generally associated with non-realistic forms of theatre and with other art-forms. How does the focus on the non-verbal languages of movement, gesture and image affect the developmental process and the product that emerges? This paper examines the ways in which acting students at any level of development can apply these non-verbal methods and principles to their own acting process and how these principles can be concretized even in the production of a realistic piece of theatre.