

DasArts Feedback Method*

The feedback method consists of various different steps. During the session, the presenter (artist/maker/student), the participants (group offering feedback), and a moderator/notetaker are present, and all commit to the rules of the method, guided by the moderator/notetaker.

Presentation

The presenter introduces their work/project. They also share the state it is currently in and the specific questions they have for the participants of the feedback session.

One-on-One

Participants leave the room and split into random pairs to share and unload their first impressions and (immediate) emotions in one-on-one conversations. The presenter takes a break. The participants rephrase their first impressions into constructive feedback and the presenter joins the group again to listen.

Affirmative Feedback

Instead of saying what they liked or what they found beautiful, the participants offer affirmative feedback by stating: "What worked for me...". The moderator/notetaker writes everything down on a large piece of paper. In order to save time, others state "+1" if they support what has been said. The presenter receives the feedback in silence.

Perspectives

This round allows for more critical responses. Participants must be clear from what perspective they are expressing views and needs with regards to the project or work. This can be a realistic perspective ('member of the audience', 'commissioner', 'art critic'...) or it can be more absurd ('horse', 'North Sea'). Participants phrase their comments and needs in such a way that allows for improvement, focused on the future: "As..., I need...", or: "From the perspective of a..., I need...". The presenter receives the feedback in silence.

Open Questions

Participants raise open (not closed) questions that they would like to ask the presenter. These could be questions addressing motivation, intentions, or new areas to explore for the presenter. Questions are listed by the moderator/notetaker but not discussed. The presenter receives the feedback in silence.

Point/Concept Reflection

Participants offer associations, problems, big ideas, and qualities they think of in relation to the presented work by writing these down on

sticky notes. The presenter receives the sticky notes and maps them onto a large piece of paper, in the centre of which a circle is drawn that represents the work. The presenter places the sticky notes at different proximities to the circle based on how closely related these words feel to their work. The moderator/notetaker invites the presenter to reflect on what is important for them and why.

'After the Premiere'/Open Discussion

A discussion takes place in which the participants discuss the presented work, as if the presenter weren't there. They refer to the presenter in the third person, who remains silent. Another option is to have an open discussion with the presenter.

Tips & Tricks

Participants offer tips and tricks (references, technical tips, contacts, experiences). The presenter receives the tips and tricks in silence.

Personal Letters

Participants write an individual, personal letter to the presenter in which they share or repeat their findings. Perhaps they share the thoughts they didn't want to share publicly, but the letter is not anonymous. The presenter reads these letters later.

*The DAS Theatre Feedback method (formerly and widely known as the DasArts Feedback method) was developed in 2013/2014 at DAS Theatre (a master programme of the Academy of Theater and Dance in Amsterdam) in collaboration with philosopher Karim Bennamar. During the HH#8 'Feeding Back' workshop on Tue 11 May, 2021, Manolis Tsipos offered an introductory workshop to this method. The description of the method offered here is based on his workshop and on watching the film made by DAS Graduate School, 'A Film About Feedback', 2013 (55 min). Accessed through: <https://vimeo.com/97319636>.