

# Company Three Blueprint Library



## Running Practice Lab

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### About

Practice labs are a weekly workshop in which Company Three artists learn, question, explore and experiment. We have recently established them in the company and this blueprint describes how to set them up.

### Purpose of a practice lab

Practice labs are designed to help artists learn and develop their practice in a collaborative and democratic way. They help us to become better artists, think freely, develop our skills, feel more empowered, create a sense of collaborative responsibility and be brave.

We do this by:

Testing ideas and new ways of working.

- Sharing skills.
- Doing research.
- Learning from external people or sources.
- Interrogating our existing practice.

### How it works

- Labs take place regularly, ideally weekly.
- They are 90 minutes long (though they can be longer if a specific activity requires it).
- One artist is responsible for 'looking after' each lab.
- They propose a source question - the more specific the better.
- The group tackle the question in whatever way feels most appropriate, brave and interesting.
- It's always good to make space first to question the question (and interrogate it for our connections and its meaning).
- Labs are always recorded (through notes, dictation, video, sound etc).
- The person who looks after the lab is responsible for creating a blueprint based on it after it has finished.

### Source question

The source question might come from a number of different places:

- A training need
- A personal interest
- Something that happened in the course of a workshop or project
- In anticipation of something that's going to happen soon.

Created by Company Three

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- A theory that you want to test.
- An experiment you want to do.
- A problem you can't solve.

A good source question is one that is specific and that will lead to an outcome that the group can own and share. E.g. *How do you work effectively with a sound designer?* Or *What is a great way to teach voice to a group of 12-year olds?*

## Planning

When planning a series of practice labs you should:

- Share responsibility for the sessions between the artists involved
- Keep some sessions unplanned so you can respond to things that come up.
- Be as ambitious as possible in how you might approach the source questions (e.g. book the best possible guests)
- Align your source questions to the priorities of the work you're making and your wider artistic development.
- Be imaginative and brave - there is no one way to do this.
- Ensure that there is one person responsible for managing the blueprints that get created, ensuring they are consistent, updated and completed.