

# Penny Woolcock — *Utopia*

## NARRATION & PERFORMANCE TO CAMERA

This approach to creative video production will help introduce reading aloud to a camera lens. Applicable for a wide range of studies, including:  
Art–Media–Drama–Literature–History–Philosophy–Politics–Economics–ICT–D&T.



**SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE**  
NARRATION TO CAMERA  
VIDEO & AUDIO RECORDING

**MINIMUM EQUIPMENT**  
1 SMARTPHONE  
**OR**  
1 CAMERA + 1 COMPUTER

### **SINGLE SCREEN PRODUCTION (2 hours+)**

- 1) **watch** the video of Penny Woolcock's *Utopia*
- 2) **group** students into small production teams
- 3) **choose** a text – anything from Thomas More's *Utopia* to a poem
- 4) **divide** the text into sections
- 5) **decide** who will read each section
- 6) **record** each performance to camera
- 7) **edit** performances into one complete video
- 8) **playback** the video

### **PLEASE READ ON IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PENNY WOOLCOCK'S USE OF PRESENTING SEVERAL SEPARATE RECORDINGS SIMULTANEOUSLY.**

THIS APPROACH REQUIRES MORE OF A TEAM EFFORT, BUT TAKES THE PRODUCTION INTO THE REALM OF ART INSTALLATION AND EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE. IT IS ALSO A USEFUL EXPERIENCE FOR VIDEO CONFERENCING, AS THE READERS/PERFORMERS HAVE TO LISTEN CAREFULLY TO OTHER GROUP MEMBERS, WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THEIR FACIAL EXPRESSIONS AND VOICES ARE BEING RECORDED.

### **MULTIPLE SCREEN PRODUCTION (2 hours+)**

Individual movies may be played back simultaneously on several screens with no need for editing software. Screens might even be smartphones, especially if they are used for recording. See below for further advice.

Alternatively, software (e.g. Adobe AfterEffects) may be used to create the mosaic of performances, similar to Penny Woolcock's video *Utopia*, or multiple video windows may be played back simultaneously on one or more screens.

### **TECHNICAL ADVICE**

Start recording

Performers count to five aloud with fingers... 'One. Two. Three. Four. Five!' Start simultaneous playback of recordings using 'Five!' as the signal. This will need some practice to get it right!

### **EXHIBIT WORK**

If students would like to exhibit their work on the artists' moving image website, please contact [info@artistsmovingimage.com](mailto:info@artistsmovingimage.com).