

Phobia in Action - Script 1

Aim:

Learn to identify and challenge homophobia, biphobia and transphobia.

Task:

- Your group will perform a roleplay exploring HBTphobic language and how it can be challenged
- Assign each member of your group a role and spend some time practising the script below
- When you perform this, stop performing at **- PAUSE -**, and then finish when told to by your teacher

Sam and Charlie are talking together when Alex greets them.

Alex: Hey you two!

Sam: Hi Alex, how are you?

Alex: I'm good. You'll never guess what I've just found out!

Charlie: What?

Alex: Kate is *BISEXUAL*!

Sam: No way! How did you find out?

Alex: Kate told Jess that she fancied her because she thought Jess felt the same way. Jess told me what happened but wouldn't tell me who had said it to her at first, but I bugged her for ages until she finally told me.

Sam: I can't say I'm that surprised to be honest, she always wants a bit of attention

Charlie: What's that supposed to mean?

Sam: Well, you know, she does this with everything - she's always making a drama out of everything. First she wanted Nick as her boyfriend and now she wants Jess as her girlfriend. She can never make her mind up and it always has to be a big deal!

- PAUSE -

Charlie: I really don't think that's a fair thing to say Sam. For a start, we always talk about *loads* of guys that we're interested in. Just because Kate has been interested in two people of different genders doesn't mean she's greedy or interested in everyone.

Sam: Okay, no need to get so angry with me Charlie! I just wish she'd make up her mind up about something for once, that's all.

Alex: Yeah seriously Charlie, calm down. I won't even bother telling you this stuff next time if you're going to be like that!

Charlie: Sam, you don't just have to be gay or straight, and the fact that Kate is a bit indecisive when it comes to other things has nothing to do with her sexuality. Also, Alex, I didn't want to know this anyway! You shouldn't be gossiping about information that's personal to someone in the first place if Kate only wanted Jess to know this.

Phobia in Action - Script 2

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Scene opens with Max greeting Andy and Chris. Max has a new sweater.

Max: Hi Andy, how you doing Chris?

Chris: Not bad thanks - hey, I ain't gay or anything, but that's a nice sweater you've got.

Max: Er okay, thanks.

Andy: Yeah it's cool. When did you get it?

Max: I got it for my birthday. Can't remember where it's from but I can take a look if you want?

Andy: Nah don't worry, I like the black graphic but I personally wouldn't wear something that's got pink and gold writing on it. It's a bit gay isn't it?

- PAUSE -

Max: What's gay about that?

Andy: Come on man, only gays wear pink and gold. It's fine because it's just a bit of it, but it's a bit brave of you.

Max: Honestly, I don't really care if people think I 'look' straight or gay. Looking 'gay' is only bad if you have a problem with two people loving each-other. I don't see the harm in that.

Andy: Mate all I'm saying is that *a lot* of the guys that I see wearing pink look gay - it *is* a bit gay, just accept it. I didn't even say there was anything wrong with it.

Max: Andy, you said that you wouldn't wear it because it 'looks gay' - you obviously think there's something that's a bit rubbish about being gay if you're worried about people thinking you look it. Besides, my uncle's gay and I've never seen him wear pink once in my life. No offence guys, but saying stuff like 'I ain't gay or anything' and 'that's a bit gay' just makes you both sound a bit insecure.

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Ashley and Billy are walking together when they are spotted by Eli.

Eli: Ashley, Billy!

Ashley: Oh hi Eli!

Eli: What are you two up to?

Ashley: We were just talking about Richard.

Eli: You mean Rowan?

Ashley: Whatever he's called now. We were just talking about how he's now taking drugs to try and turn him into a woman or something?

Billy: Yeah it's like oestrogen? It's the one we talked about in Biology that makes you grow boobs and stuff. It's a bit weird, don't you think? Like if you still have all your 'stuff' down there. I mean what are they going to do with that - have you asked him about it? How does that even work?

Ashley: No, to be honest it all makes me a bit uncomfortable. I just miss the Richard who used to play football with us before everything with him got really complicated.

- PAUSE -

Eli: Guys, think about what you're saying! Rowan's told you both so many times now that they don't want to be called 'Richard' and they don't want you to use 'he/him' to describe them any more. I know it takes a bit of time to get used to but you're not even trying.

Ashley: Alright mate, calm down!

Eli: No Ashley, this stuff is important! It's none of our business what medical procedures Rowan's going through at the moment. If one of your family members or friends had to go through a load of complicated medical treatments, would you want the whole school talking about it behind your back?

Billy: It's different though, isn't it? Richard or Rowan or whatever is *choosing* to have all of this done - if you have to have surgery for an actual illness you don't get a choice in it.

Eli: Billy, you obviously don't understand how distressing it can be to feel like your gender identity and biological sex don't match for *years*. No one would choose that. Imagine how you'd feel if you woke up tomorrow and you were a different biological sex, and you had to go through years of medical procedures to resolve that. For transgender people it's not a choice!

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Francis and Jamie are talking together when they meet their friend Frankie.

Frankie: Hey you two, how's it going?

Francis: Not bad. We were just talking about James - apparently he has a boyfriend now.

Frankie: Ugh yeah. I'm not going to lie to you guys, I think that's so wrong.

Francis: What's wrong about it?

Frankie: Well, my dad told me that in the Bible it says that being gay is an abomination.

Francis: What does that even mean?

Frankie: Well it means it's seriously wrong. Like, a disgrace. Honestly I think if James chooses to lead that kind of lifestyle then he should be forced to get some kind of help, like therapy or something.

- PAUSE -

Jamie: Frankie, I think you're wrong. Saying someone 'chooses to be gay' or that being gay is a 'lifestyle' is just factually wrong.

Frankie: Says who? I'm entitled to an opinion based on my religion!

Jamie: Says decades of research that has looked at if people choose their sexuality and if people can change it. Therapists tried for years to try and change people's sexuality with all sorts of horrible techniques, like giving gay men electric shocks, forcing them to be sick, or -

Frankie: Okay fine Jamie! You can't choose your sexuality then. But I'm still allowed to say what I want, it's a free country, I'm entitled to free speech. I feel like you can't say anything anti-gay these days without someone jumping down your throat.

Francis: Actually Frankie, while I respect your right to have an opinion based on your religious views, saying someone should be 'forced' into therapy is hate speech, which is illegal. I know you and James disagree on a lot of things, but he respects your religion even though he doesn't always agree with it, so you should respect his right to have a boyfriend even if it's something you think is 'wrong'. It's not your place to tell him who he can or can't be with.

Phobia in Action - Script 5

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Scene begins with Toby introducing their friend Robyn to Reece.

Robyn: Toby, this is my friend Reece.

Toby: Great to meet you Reece. Oh I'm really sorry, I've just got a message I have to answer, one second!

Robyn: No worries Toby, is it your boyfriend?

Reece: Toby has a *boyfriend*? So... you're gay?

Toby: Er...

Robyn: Reece is bi, technically.

Reece: *[Laughing]* That's what they all say.

Robyn: What's that supposed to mean, Reece?

Reece: Well all gay guys first say they're bi before they admit they're gay because they think people will judge them less if they like girls too. Being 'bi' is so fashionable nowadays that everyone wants to jump on the bandwagon.

Toby: I'm not sure if that's entirely tr-

Reece: Yeah it's what happened with my mate, he told me that he was bi first because he thought that if he still kissed girls and also talked about girls and stuff, then people wouldn't mind if he also fancied guys. Trust me Robyn, Toby here will be telling you he's gay in no time, won't you Toby?
[laughing]

- PAUSE -

Toby: Actually Reece that's completely untrue. Bisexuality is very real and it's different from being gay. Yes some gay people do that, but I think I have a better understanding of who I'm into than you do.

Reece: Alright alright! All I'm saying is that I don't know many bisexual people who don't eventually tell people they're gay.

Robyn: Reece there are loads of famous bisexual people: Azealia Banks is bi, Billie Joe Armstrong is bi, Angelina Jolie is bi, David Bowie was bi. I could go on! And being bisexual is just as hard as being gay is sometimes, because people constantly tell you that your identity isn't real. Try and think about how your words will make people feel before you talk, Reece.

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Jade walks out of a public toilet to greet her friends Kelly and Adrien.

Jade: Oh my God guys you won't believe what I just saw in those toilets.

Kelly: What?! Are you okay?!

Jade: There was a *man* who was dressed like a woman and was wearing make-up in the *women's* toilets.

Adrien: That probably wasn't a man, Pat.

Jade: What do you mean? Please don't get started on that trans stuff again. Of course it was a man - there were parts of him that didn't look like a woman! I was looking at him for ages and was close to telling him to leave.

Adrien: Pat, that might have been a transgender person transitioning.

Jade: I don't care - if someone looks like a man then they *are* a man. Fair enough if you get surgery and everything and blend in with women, but it makes me really uncomfortable to have a man using women's toilets, even if they are a tranny. What if it's someone creepily staring at me or something?

- PAUSE -

Kelly: Pat, please stop speculating as to what gender someone is. We've both told you that that person is a woman and might be transitioning, which can be an extremely difficult stage of someone's life.

Jade: Okay sure, it might be difficult for them, but what about my rights? What about my privacy?

Adrien: In what ways does it actually affect you if she's in the toilets? I've seen women who might be trans in public toilets before and I just get on with my life. I don't understand why it bothers you so much.

Jade: It just makes me uncomfortable! Aren't I allowed to feel uncomfortable?

Kelly: Well Pat, you said you were worried about her staring at you, but you said earlier that you were staring at her for ages. How do you think that made her feel? If she used the men's toilets, exactly the same thing would happen to her. Try and sympathise a bit. She doesn't have to meet your standards for what a woman 'looks like' for her identity to be okay. Many transgender people who want to transition can't afford to or have to wait months or years for it.

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Albie, Jamie and Chris have just finished playing football.

Albie: I can't believe we lost again.

Jamie: I know, I didn't even score once.

Chris: It wasn't your fault Jamie, you had Jack playing on your team.

Albie: What was wrong with Jack? I thought he played well.

Chris: Well... he's gay, isn't he?

Jamie: What has that got to do with anything?

Chris: Gay people are always rubbish at sports. Also, I'm not going to lie, it makes me a bit uncomfortable that he's on our team. I bet he fancies all of us, and I feel awkward getting changed with him - what if he's looking at all of us when we're getting changed?

Jamie: What makes you think he fancies all of us?

Chris: Well he's gay, isn't he? He said it himself!

- PAUSE -

Albie: Chris, you're buying into stereotypes. Stereotypes are completely oversimplified ways of thinking about a group of people. Gay people aren't always rubbish at sports - Jack was actually the only person on our team today who scored, so that's completely inaccurate.

Chris: Alright Albie, no need to get so defensive. Are *you* gay or something?

Jamie: Grow up Chris. Just because someone calls you out on using stereotypes, doesn't make them gay. It makes them a decent person. You'd never say something like that if someone called you out on sexism or racism.

Chris: Can you both calm down? I just don't want another guy being interested in or looking at me, okay?

Jamie: Chris, get over yourself - I don't think there's any chance of any guys being interested in you after everything you've just said. It's silly to think that just because someone is gay they'll fancy you - Jack already said that he's not interested in any guys in our year. And I'm sure Jack feels much more uncomfortable than you in P.E. lessons knowing that people are making these kind of comments about him. Leave him alone.

Phobia in Action - Script 8

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Sam, Eli and Andy are talking.

Sam: Hey Eli, I heard you and Frankie went to the cinema recently.

Eli: Yeah we did, it was alright.

Andy: Only alright? Frankie seemed to have a really good time.

Sam: Andy's right - I think Frankie fancies you.

Eli: I think so too, but I wouldn't go there.

Andy: Why not? So many people would kill to be with Frankie!

Eli: Frankie told me that she's bisexual.

Sam: What's your point?

Eli: Well, if I was with Frankie, she'd be interested in me for a little while, and then probably leave me or cheat on me with someone of a different gender when they get bored.

- PAUSE -

Andy: Eli, I think that's a misconception.

Eli: What's a misconception? It's the truth - I've heard about it happening before!

Sam: Bisexual people aren't any more likely than straight or gay people to leave you for someone. Anyone can cheat or get bored. If they're happy with the relationship, they won't leave you, it's as simple as that.

Andy: Sam's right - there are a lot of negative things said about bisexual people, but you really shouldn't base your opinions on gossip or myths. You're missing out if you dismiss someone just because they're bisexual.

Phobia in Action - Script 9

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Max, Alex and Ashley are speaking to each-other.

Max: How have you been recently, Alex?

Alex: A lot better, thanks.

Ashley: I'm really glad to hear that - we're so proud of you for coming out as transgender last week. I know you've felt this way for a very long time and I'm really pleased that you felt able to tell us now. I hope you know we're always here for you.

Alex: Thanks Ashley, that's really sweet of you to say.

Max: Yeah, I think it's really exciting that you're trans - I didn't have any trans friends before, and I think you'll look just like a real girl eventually.

Alex: Um, yeah, sure.

Max: Yeah. I'm sure loads of guys will think you're good looking even though you're trans.

Ashley: Max, I'm not sure if you're being helpful.

Max: What?! I'm just trying to be nice. Alex seriously, if you just wore a bit more make-up you'd already look like a girl and no one would even notice that you're actually a boy.

- PAUSE -

Ashley: Max, those comments sound like insults dressed up as compliments and tips to me.

Max: I'm just trying to be helpful!

Alex: You might be trying to be helpful Max, but it's not helpful to talk about 'real' girls - I'm just as much of a girl as cisgender girls - I've never not been a girl, I just haven't felt able to tell people. I don't really want advice from you about how to make myself look more like a girl - I don't think people's acceptance of me should depend on if I can 'pass' as a girl or not.