**9-Week Theatre Lesson Plan for Middle School Intermediate Theatre**

**Objective:** Prepare students for a comedy play set in today's time. The vignettes come together to reveal the “killer of the internet,” requiring a strong focus on comedic timing, ensemble work, characterization, and physicality.

**Week 1: Welcome to Intermediate theatre and the cast of “The Day the Internet Died”**

* Overview of the play and distribution of scripts.
* Read-through of the first few scenes to familiarize students with the humor and story.

**Week 2: Introduction and Ensemble Building**

**Day 1: Introduction to the Comedy**

* Discussion: What makes a good comedy?
* Ensemble warm-up: “Yes, And” improv game to build collaboration and adaptability.

**Day 2: Ensemble and Trust Building**

* Warm-up: Group mirroring exercise.
* Activity: Ensemble-building activities, such as "Machine Game" and "Pass the Action."
* Read-through of additional scenes.
* *Extension Activity:* Research famous comedic plays and character archetypes. Groups can create short presentations on what they discover.

**Day 3: Character Introductions**

* Warm-up: Character walk (students move through space embodying different characters).
* Discuss the key character traits in a comedic setting (e.g., exaggeration, quirks).
* Assign character research questions: “What is their motivation? What makes them funny?”
* Additional discussion: How do different archetypes (e.g., the trickster, the foil) fit into ensemble comedy?

**Day 4: Physicality in Comedy**

* Warm-up: "Exaggerated Gestures" exercise.
* Physicality workshop: Practice using posture, movement, and facial expressions to convey humor.
* Rehearse a vignette scene focusing on non-verbal communication.
* *Bonus:* Add an improv game focused on building confidence in physical comedy.

**Day 5: Full Read-Through**

* Full read-through of the entire play.
* Group discussion: First impressions of the flow and timing.
* *Reflection:* Students write in their journals about their favorite character moments and what they learned about timing.

**Week 2: Characterization and Timing**

**Day 1:**

* Warm-up: “Fast and Slow” to practice comedic pacing.
* Discussion: The importance of comedic timing.
* Blocking rehearsal: Begin blocking the first two vignettes.

**Day 2:**

* Warm-up: “Scene Freeze” to practice spontaneous comedic reactions.
* Rehearsal: Run vignettes 1 and 2 with blocking.
* Feedback session on timing and ensemble interactions.

**Day 3:**

* Workshop: Character improvisation — “How would your character respond in an unexpected situation?”
* Continue blocking vignette 3.

**Day 4:**

* Warm-up: “Emotion Switch” (students switch emotional expressions on cue).
* Rehearsal: Run vignette 3 with blocking.
* Peer feedback on physicality and delivery.

**Day 5:**

* Run-through of vignettes 1–3.
* Reflection: What adjustments can enhance comedic timing?

**Week 3: Comedic Timing and Collaboration**

**Day 1:**

* Warm-up: “Double-Take Challenge” (students practice exaggerated reactions).
* Rehearsal: Blocking and running vignette 4.
* Focus: Pauses, pacing, and audience awareness.

**Day 2:**

* Warm-up: “Group Charades” with comedic scenarios.
* Rehearsal: Re-run vignettes 1–4.
* Instructor feedback on timing and interaction.

**Day 3:**

* Workshop: Dialogue delivery practice.
* Focused work on ensemble entrances and exits.

**Day 4:**

* Rehearsal: Full run-through of vignettes 1–4.
* Notes on transitions and comedic beats.

**Day 5:**

* Introduce vignette 5 and begin initial blocking.

**Week 4: Physical Comedy and Energy**

**Day 1:**

* Warm-up: “Silent Scene” (students perform a scene with no dialogue).
* Workshop: Slapstick comedy basics (safely perform exaggerated actions).
* *Guest Speaker Option:* Invite a local performer or movement specialist for a physical comedy workshop.

**Day 2:**

* Physicality exercises: “Levels and Ladders” (explore varying heights and stances in performance).
* Rehearsal: Practice key comedic moments that require physical humor.
* Add extra movement-based improv games to enhance timing and gestures.

**Day 3:**

* Run vignettes 1–5.
* Group discussion: Identifying moments that need higher energy.
* Reflection exercise: Students journal how physicality supports character humor.

**Day 4:**

* Focused rehearsal on scenes with large group interaction.
* Ensemble challenge: Perform the scene without verbal cues to test teamwork.
* *Bonus:* Include character-specific movement prompts for variation.

**Day 5:**

* Run-through of all vignettes with minimal line prompts.
* Peer review session: Highlight strong moments and areas for improvement.
* Plan follow-up exercises based on peer feedback.

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* Warm-up: “Silent Scene” (students perform a scene with no dialogue).
* Workshop: Slapstick comedy basics (safely perform exaggerated actions).

**Day 2:**

* Physicality exercises: “Levels and Ladders” (explore varying heights and stances in performance).
* Rehearsal: Practice key comedic moments that require physical humor.

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* Run vignettes 1–5.
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**Day 4:**

* Focused rehearsal on scenes with large group interaction.
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**Day 5:**

* Run-through of all vignettes with minimal line prompts.
* Peer review session: Highlight strong moments and areas for improvement.

**Week 5: Scene Refinement and Blocking**

**Day 1:**

* Warm-up: “Speed-Through” (students perform lines as fast as possible to build cue awareness).
* Blocking touch-ups for problematic sections.

**Day 2:**

* Focused rehearsal: Clean entrances, exits, and stage pictures.
* Reinforce comedic beats (pauses, emphasis, etc.).

**Day 3:**

* Full run-through of vignettes 1–5.
* Add music and sound cues where appropriate.

**Day 4:**

* Group reflection: What elements of comedic timing can be exaggerated or tightened?

**Day 5:**

* Instructor-led run-through focusing on comedic timing and clarity.

**Week 6: Ensemble Cohesion and Transitions**

**Day 1:**

* Warm-up: "Trust Walk" to strengthen ensemble connections.
* Work on smooth transitions between vignettes.
* *Extension:* Additional group scene-building exercises to practice flow.

**Day 2:**

* Scene rehearsal focusing on overlapping dialogue and fast-paced exchanges.
* Peer feedback: What works well in terms of interaction?
* Include a short exercise to refine group timing during entrances and exits.

**Day 3:**

* Full run-through with costumes.
* Focus: Energy consistency across all scenes.
* Add mini-feedback sessions after each scene for immediate improvement.

**Day 4:**

* Line run-through without blocking to build muscle memory.
* Group game: "Transition Relay" to practice seamless scene shifts.

**Day 5:**

* Run-through with timing adjustments based on previous feedback.
* Final notes: Celebrate small wins and identify final touches before next week.

**Week 7: Dress Rehearsals and Performance Practice**

**Day 1:**

* Full dress rehearsal with props, costumes, and sound cues.
* Instructor notes on characterization, timing, and pacing.
* *Extension:* Run specific scenes multiple times to refine comedic beats and transitions.

**Day 2:**

* Mock performance with peer audience.
* Collect feedback from peers and reflect on pacing adjustments.

**Day 3:**

* Focused work on group scenes and comedic timing in duos or trios.
* Add exercises to emphasize maintaining high energy throughout.

**Day 4:**

* Additional full run-through with extended reflection breaks after each scene.
* Q&A for students to address any concerns.

**Day 5:**

* Final dress rehearsal with a focus on flow and confidence.
* Reflective journaling: “What is your character’s funniest moment, and why does it work?”
* *Bonus:* Invite small groups for feedback to simulate audience reactions.

**Week 8: Final Performance Preparations and Mock Week**

**Day 1:**

* Final touch-ups and review of key notes.
* Practice maintaining high energy throughout.

**Day 2:**

* Mock audience run-through 1 (simulate full performance, including transitions).
* Feedback session: Identify pacing improvements.

**Day 3:**

* Mock audience run-through 2 (repeat full performance with different audience focus).
* Reflection: Journal on what felt stronger compared to the first run-through.

**Day 4:**

* Final dress rehearsal with a focus on adjustments based on mock performance feedback.

**Day 5:**

* Final pre-show celebration: Ensemble exercises and confidence-boosting activities.
* Team pep talk and Q&A.

This 9-week lesson plan focuses on building comedic timing, physicality, and ensemble work, ensuring students are prepared to bring the humor and energy needed for a successful performance.