

Hyperreality + Paratheatre

Today we will:

- Think about the difference between **real life**, **performance**, and something that feels **“more than real.”**
- Learn two ideas from theory and try to connect them to a dinner scene from the film *My Dinner with Andre*.

Key Ideas (simple)

- Some thinkers say we now live inside **images, media, and staged experiences**.
- Some experiences can feel **more intense, more perfect, or more meaningful** than normal everyday life.
- Other artists and directors try to create special **meetings** where there is **no audience**, only people taking part together.

You do not need to remember every name. Just try to use the ideas to think about what you see and feel.

Central Questions

While you watch and discuss, keep these in mind:

1. **Real or staged?**
    - When you see two people having dinner on screen, how can you tell what is “real life” and what is performance?
2. **More real than real?**
    - Can a filmed or edited conversation at dinner feel more honest or deep than most real dinners you have had?

- If yes, why?

3. **Audience or participant?**
    - When you watch the dinner in *My Dinner with Andre*, do you feel like a quiet guest at the table, or like someone in the audience far away from them?
    - What small details make you feel closer or more distant?
4. **A third space?**
    - Is this dinner just normal life?
    - Is it a performance only for us?
    - Or is it something in between, a special space where people try to meet each other in a new way?

Notes + Excerpts

Guide