**Characters**

**Essential Questions:**

What is the link between the characters from Cosi Fan Tutte and from the Cosi?

Which characters are presented positively and which negatively? What are their positive and negative traits?

How are characters compared and contrasted?

What is relationship between the characters?

Which characters develop or go on a journey throughout the play?

**Characters from the play:**

**Lewis**

**Lucy**

**Nick**

**Justin**

**Roy**

**Henry**

**Doug**

**Cherry**

**Julie**

**Ruth**

**Zac**

**Characters from the opera within the play:**

**Don Alfonso:** Old philosopher. Bets Guglielmo and Ferrando that their lovers will not be faithful. (played by the character of Henry)

**Guglielmo:** Young officer. Lover of Fiordiligi at the start of the play. (played by the character of Roy)

**Ferrando:** Young officer. Lover of Dorabella at the start of the play. (played first by the character of Doug then by Lewis)

**Fiordiligi:** Sister of Dorabella. Originally Guglielmo’s lover at the start of Cosi Fan Tutte. Falls for Ferrando. (played by the character of Julie)

**Dorabella**: Sister of Fiordiligi. Originally Ferrando’s lover at the start of Cosi Fan Tutte. Falls for Guglielmo. (played by the character of Ruth)

**Despina:** A maid (played by the character of Cherry)

**Lewis**

Lewis is the character who undergoes the most dramatic change in the play. Originally he agrees to do the play because he needs the money. He brings with him views and values from the outside world which initially set him against the patients – “they’re mad” – and the themes of Cosi Fan Tutte – “love is not so important nowadays.” However, his attitudes completely reverse throughout the course of the play as he comes to accepts the patients for who they are and to identify with the themes of love and fidelity from the play.

**Key Quotes:**

* Lewis: I need the money, Lucy.
* Lewis: Why can’t I ever say no? Just leave. They’re mad. It’s madness.
* Lewis:…Love is not so important nowadays.

Roy: What planet are you from?

* Lewis: I want the others to contribute, it makes them feel part of the show.
* Julie: In a way you’re sort of testing yourself by coming here?
* Lewis: It’s about important things – like love and fidelity.

**What is your point of view?**

Lewis is only character who really goes on a journey in the play. The other characters are only there to act as foils.

**Julie**

Julie’s attitude to love and relationships is almost exactly opposite to those of Lucy. Where Lucy is serious and political, Julie believes that “a laugh is as good as a fuck.” She celebrates the “stupid” and “foolish” aspects of love but believes that commitment is important. Unlike the other patients, Julie is the character who could probably most easily transition back into the outside world. She is also the character who helps Lewis transition into the world of the asylum. “I like the dark,” she says, and its during a time of darkness on stage that she and Lewis kiss, cementing Lewis’ link to the play and the patients.

**Key Quotes:**

* Julie: I don’t like men’s double standards, I guess. Men want women to deceive them because it’ll prove their worst thoughts about women…
* Julie: My parents had me committed. They think its sort of like a holiday.
* Julie:…It’s peculiar about drugs. Doug hates them because he likes to be naturally high all the time. Zac likes them because everything passes like he’s in a dream or limbo. I think I’m a naturally addictive personality.
* Julie:…That’s what love is, being foolish.
* Julie: I’ve always thought that love was being foolish and stupid. It’s about being on the edge and I like being on the edge.
* Julie: I like the dark. That’s what I hate about the wards – they’re never really totally dark.
* Julie: I need something stable in my life. I need my girlfriend. She’s stood by me through thick and thin…

**What is your point of view?**

* Julie is the character who has the biggest influence over Lewis.
* It’s through Julie that Lewis is really able to connect to the play and patients.
* Julie embodies all the views and values of love and relationships that Nowra thinks are important.
* The similarities of Julie and Justin’s name is no co-incidence. They have similar roles in the play.

**Nick & Lucy**

Interestingly, Nick and Lucy are they only two characters to swear in the play – Lucy when she says, “Don’t quote that fuckin’ opera at me,” and Nick when he says, “Here’s this woman telling you to go out and fuck any men you can – “ (the stage direction after this comment notes that there is “shocked intake of breath from everyone at the four letter word”). The language of Nick and Lucy set them apart from other characters. Their political jargon is earnest and serious on one hand, while they can be equally dismissive and patronizing on the other (think of Nick saying – “Lucy’s not possessive about you, I’m not possessive about her. What’s the fuss?” The way they talk demonstrated the vastly different set of values they bring to the play from the other characters and the different world they come from.

**Key Quotes:**

* Nick: Mad actors are bad enough, but madmen…
* Lewis: …I’ve heard it all before. Nick’s a friend. He has only one problem, he likes the sound of his voice.
* Lewis: …She hates talk about love. She thinks its icky. ‘Love is the last gasp of the bourgeois romanticism’ she says. She hates me doing an opera about love and fidelity while thousands of Vietnamese are being killed by America troops.
* Nick: Only mad people in this day and age would do a work about love and infidelity. They’re definitely mad.
* Nick: Christ, you’ll never be a director until you can convince them that what you want to do is what they want to do.
* Lucy: I have sex with him and sleep with you…It’s not as if we’re married.
* Lucy: Working with these people has changed you. We used to talk about things. Important things. Now all you can talk about is reactionary drivel like *Cosi Fan Tutte*.

**What’s your point of view?**

* While Lucy and Julie are very dissimilar, they view men’s attitude to women’s fidelity in the same way.

**Roy**

Justin describes Roy at the start of the play as Lewis’ “natural energizer.” In a way this is true (at one stage the play describes Lewis as being ‘beaten’ by Roy’s enthusiasm), in another way it is really Roy’s egotism that sets a series of challenges for Lewis to overcome. Roy is the most difficult and challenging character for Lewis in the play. Importantly, Roy never changes, but the attitude Lewis has to him does. As all the characters say at the end of Cosi Fan Tutte – “Happy is the man who calmly takes life as he finds it and through the vicissitudes of life lets himself be rules by reason…”

**Key Quotes:**

* Roy: It’s all in my head. Without this, the world wouldn’t be the same.
* Roy: …Hate is a much more pure emotion. We choose our enemies with much greater care than our lovers.
* Roy:…Democracy is foreign to theatre, Jerry. You and I know that, it’s just that you want to pander to the mob.
* Roy: I had a dream…There would be music…a world that was as far removed from this depressing asylum as possible. A world that was like my childhood…

**What’s your point of view?**

* Roy never changes in the play. This is important because the play is not about him, but about Lewis accepting him for who he is.
* Roy is simply a crazy version of Nick.