



## The Stage of Everyday Interaction

- **Front stage** - when performing for an audience
- **Back stage** - out of sight of that audience
- **Scene 1 - front stage**
  - Susan (student) and Lecturer Bulger (audience)
- **Scene 2 - back stage**
  - Susan with fellow student at lunch

- "Goffman showed that, like actors on a stage, people use routine behaviors (performances) to shape others' impressions of identities, actions, relationships, and situations."

## Frames and Human Interaction

- Frame - "is how we define a situation or encounter"
  - we use these frames to interpret various situations
  - are cultural

- "How are you doing?"
  - walking across campus
  - on the phone with a friend who attends another college

## Ordinary Activities and Relationships

Mary Catherine Bateson argues

- "more than momentous behaviors and events, it is primarily the small, routine actions that construct meaning, assert identities, affirm or challenge the identities that others assert for themselves, define what a relationship is and what guides it."
- routine interactions provide relationship foundations

## Routine Interactions – Everyday Talk

- **Regulates Interactions**
  - include or exclude others
- **Positive and Negative Effects**
  - intimacy and self-validation
  - dark side

- **Please sign attendance sheet – it is up front**
  - I will enforce 24 hour drop rule if you have not signed