

Kati Vapalahti: Forum theatre as a pedagogical method



SOCIAL PEDAGOGY as a theoretical back ground: preventing and solving social problems by using pedagogical methods like art based methods

Social :

- societal
- collaborative work
- communication

Pedagogical:

- theory about education
- educational methods, e.g. art-based methods



Promoting
human rights

Multi- professional
work, e.g. artists
and social- / youth
workers /
educators / nurses
/ psychologists

Art and right of expression is a Human Right

http://www.claiminghumanrights.org/udhr_article_27.html#at29

Article 27: Right to participate in cultural life

Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

Forum theatre

- Augusto Boal: Theatre of Oppressed, 1973

Aims and principles

- to support consciousness of the world and active action for social change
- to create different solutions to conflicts from perspective of suffering person
- participation and involvement and dialog
- To support critical attitude
- **All people are active actors**



For example



Stories and image theatre on violence □ making visible



Dialog: how would things be



Action for social change

Development of Forum-theatre

Teatro de Arena 1957

Agitation-propaganda

Legislative
-theatre

Invisible theatre

**Augusto
Boal,
Brasilia**

Rainbow of
desire
-teknikat

Theatre of the Opressed

Simulate
dramaturgy

Cops in the head
-techniques

Forum-theatre

Image Theatre

to make visible:

- feelings
- ideas
- conflicts



to make social change:

- dialog between different perspectives
- alternative possibilities

Dialog without words

Exercises

WARM UP

TRUST WORK

STORIES

BRIDGE WORK: IMAGE WORK

MAKING ACTIVATING SCENE

FORUM THEATRE

Exercises: Contact without words:

- Warm up: Traffic jam
- Trust work:
 - Group rules:
Trustfulness, Non-judgement, Respect, Openness, Honestly, Voluntarily
 - Choosing the theme that includes problem
- Story telling about the chosen theme
 - Including start, middle and end. True story that you are involved in
 - 3 min / person
 - only for the pair (one tells and another listens)
 - The pairs tells for all one word that expresses the story she/ he just heard by the storyteller. The words will be written on the wall for all
- Bridge work: Human sculpting: Complete the image by using the words of the former exercise in groups of 6 members.
- Make images about the chosen problem and another image when the problem is gone or a bit solved from the viewpoint of the suffering person. Showing the images to others and reflection about realism, reasons, possibilities in real life.
- Your own first positive step that you could do for the solution: reflection by painting and explaining in the small groups

Small groups

1. Miira Arell, Magdaleena Mimi, Tuomas Larkovuo, Anastasia Stanislavskaya, Ivanova Polina, Daniil Nazarov + Teacher mentor Kati Vapalahti
2. Teemu Turunen, Veera Ilvonen, Levonen Tarja, Oxana Bazenyuk, Alisa Slavskaia, Darya Polshvedkina + Teacher mentor Sari Miettinen
3. Inkeri Autio, Anu Sopanen, Lindbhom Niina, Vlada Bulat, Valeria Edrikova, Tatyana Tyarasova + Teacher mentor Katri Schadewitz
4. Siiri Mänttari, Virve Linnanen, Paavolainen Nina, Maxim Dumin, Andrey Milovidov, Anna Astanina + Teacher mentor Tuija Suikkanen Malin

Thank You for your attention

Further questions:

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FRAGMENTTEJA
Tommi Toija

Why to use image for supporting dialogue?

“IMAGE-THEATRE – **Words** are emptinesses that fill the emptiness (vacuum) that exists between one human being and another. Words are lines that we carve in the sand, sounds that we sculpt in the air. We know the meaning of the word we pronounce, because we fill it with our desires, ideas and feelings, but we don’t know how that word is going to be heard by each listener.

IMAGE THEATRE is a series of Techniques that allow people to communicate through Images and Spaces, and not through words alone.”
(Augusto Boal, Rio de Janeiro 2004)

Orientation

Consciousness – what is happening?



Visio – what should be happen?



What could be done for change?

Topic for the work

Dialog for social change

Reflection of action and theory

Forum theatre situation

Realistic

Ends to conflict

No solution

Clear conflict

Relationships, intentions, circumstances

place, action

Significance

Motives

Oppressed person

Slow progress

Facilitation

Facilitator / joker = a bridge between an audience and actors

Motivate people to try different solutions and to participate

Make questions for reflecting of ideas

Is a critical voice; doesn't allow unrealistic solutions

Facilitation basic questions

Is it realistic? What might be true?

Who is the oppressed person?

What would s(he) wish?

Did (s)he get what wished?

Why s(he) didn't ?

What could s(he) do?

Forum theatre is based on philosophy of Paulo Freire: Pedagogy of Oppressed

Active, empowering model for learning according to Paulo Freire

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMhumwBVwzU>

- Support to be independent and critical
- Subject-subject –relationship
- All people are active actors
- Dialog
- Collaborative negotiation
- All kind of knowledge is valuable

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Tunne huomisen - All for the future.