



# INCLUSIVE THEATRE

**a project of theatre education to promote processes of social inclusion**

Immigration and the mutation of our society (that we would like to be open minded and welcoming!) have been important issues for Teatro Due Mondi since 2011 when thousands of refugees landed on the Italian coasts during the civil war in Libya. 30 young men from Nigeria, Ghana, Tchad and Pakistan were hosted in the surroundings of our home town Faenza. They were completely isolated and the inhabitants of our region didn't know anything about them. That's when we decided to start a theatre workshop in order to know these people and to create a space where immigrants and Italians could meet each other. It was the beginning of our "Refugees Project". Many street theatre actions ("Azioni"), one open-air site specific show and a documentary have been produced during these three years of activities. Still today we are running a weekly workshop in Faenza with 40 participants coming from all around the world.

## Community street theatre

Teatro Due Mondi has been doing street theatre for many years. Our shows are destined to an audience of ordinary people of different ages and origins and deal with themes and issues that concern life in our contemporary world and in the future of the new generations. We think that artistic experiences can help people to understand better what's happening in society today and to live in a more conscious way. We propose to a group of people to realize a show supposed to be presented on the street instead of a traditional theatre play. Performing on the street offers a chance to the participants to encounter the community through an artistic experience. Playing theatre on the street in a numerous group of "actors" of different ages and origins is a strong and direct way to take your place, to put your ideas and dreams, your pain and joy in the center of the attention of the others. We can do this in a poetic and artistic way, in a language that is accessible for everyone, using street theater as a tool of a new relationship between the inhabitants of a community. One of the aims of this workshop is to encourage the participants to use the open space in a creative way. You don't need a stage or any particular venues for this - a street, a square or a courtyard is sufficient; go out and leave the protected areas (home, working place, cinema) and forget for a while your individual activities (television, internet, fitness) without being afraid of getting in contact with other people.

## The workshop INCLUSIVE THEATRE

INCLUSIVE THEATRE is a project of non-formal education in the field of the arts promoted by Teatro Due Mondi in the frame of Erasmus +, the European program for education and learning. It is aimed at people who wish to meet others and want to exchange ideas and thoughts. People who believe it is possible to overcome social barriers and do not want to feel foreign, misunderstood or mute, who want to approach street theater as an art form of social communication. Participation in the workshop offers a personal, emotional and training experience while providing a methodology that can be applied in different personal and professional life fields. Through a collaborative creative process and the participation in collective theatre actions in a large and heterogeneous group, a social sense of community is created. Solidarity can be experienced, individuals can speak up loud. The workshop proposes artistic teaching methods that enable or facilitate the encounter between different generations and between people from different backgrounds, languages and cultures.

Drama exercises and improvisation can reveal and solve the automatic way we behave, stimulate curiosity, willingness and openness towards the other and suggest new ways of relating in a better world.

The workshop offers the transmission of a practical method with specific techniques able to promote the confrontation on issues like justice, solidarity and social inclusion and to create a group that experiences a sense of belonging and pursues the objective of public visibility, where an emotional encounter takes place.

## Work program

The theatre techniques lead workshop participants to share their experiences and achieve cohesion among the group through various theatrical exercises

- Exercises for emotional and empathic interaction
- Physical exercises and group movements
- Sharing of experiences among participants
- Theatrical exercises to build simple scenes from the life experience of the participants
- Creation of a theatre production
- Public presentation of the outcome of the workshop in open spaces

Instead of a traditional theatre play, we propose to the participants to make a street theatre performance, being one of the objective of the workshop to encourage participants to use the open space in a creative way. No stage or particular places are needed, only a street, a square or a courtyard. Going outside and leaving the protected areas (home, workplace, film, theater) and forgetting for a while your individual activities (television, internet, gym) without fear of contact with other people is a way to impulse social confrontation and inclusion.

## Target groups

The workshop is open to anyone interested: young and old people with different cultural backgrounds, languages, professions. It is also aimed at professionals working in the social field who normally do not practice the performing arts, the so called "non-actors". It is a project of participatory training and communication at three levels:

### **Professionals**

On one hand, it is aimed at professionals interested in social or artistic field (social workers, teachers and educators, artists working in social projects). Enrichment is carried out by emotional, physical and intellectual experience in the group. This group of participants realizes a multiplicative function by transmitting their experience from the workshop in their professional environment and their educational practices.

### **Not professionals**

They are workshop participants living in a condition of social or disadvantaged exclusion (for example, refugees, unemployed) that through the emotional experience, physical and intellectual recognition in the group can develop **personal strength**, self-awareness and expectations.

### **The public**

The spectators in the street are also recipient of the project. This is an accidental audience which is not known in advance. Through the encounter with the street theater action the spectators can acquire awareness of the issue and of participants. In this way, the street theater uses its ability to make people aware.



## History and method of TEATRO DUE MONDI

TEATRO DUE MONDI is an independent theatre group from Faenza in Italy, subsidized by the Region Emilia Romagna. The group has been doing theatre research and theatre pedagogy for over 35 years and is composed by 6 permanent members and about 12 volunteers. The artistic research of the actors/teachers is based on auto-pedagogical processes that generate shows and that stimulate diversified educational activities.

The group's work is composed by: theatre teaching and theatre production (including street theatre, social committed theatre, and theatre for children), organization of events (theatre, music and dance), information and net-working (conferences and meetings about artistic and social issues).

Due to a strong social motivation, the group aims at bringing theatre where it is especially needed: suburbs, orphanages, socially disadvantaged areas, streets and squares.

That's why STREET THEATRE has become one important aspect of its work: it contains a lot of cultural and social implications and can empower a continuous encounter with heterogeneous audiences and spectators coming from different cultural, social, demographic and racial backgrounds.

Another important aspect is THEATER PEDAGOGY seen as a moment of exchange and dialogue with the community. From the beginning on Teatro Due Mondì has organized a lot of pedagogical projects in Italy and abroad. The many years' experience contain workshops for YOUNG generations, for ADULTS and for disadvantaged people who live in difficult circumstances.

Since 2012 Teatro Due Mondì has been promoting several cultural and educational Projects funded by the European Commission, in collaboration with international partners coming from all over Europe, South-America and Palestina.

Teatro Due Mondì has developed many specific pedagogical skills:

- mediation between different cultures
- empowering the dialogue between cultures and generations
- putting the participants into relationship with each other and empowering the process of integration
- recreating solidarity inside the community
- causing participation and responsibility of the participants by empowering their gifts
- stimulating the creative capacities of the participants
- helping communication between individuals
- facilitating communication between social groups and the community that welcome them
- facilitating learning of a foreign language through theatre

The teaching actors of Teatro Due Mondì use a non-formal pedagogic approach based on a collective group culture and on participation and sharing. The competence of the group members is above all artistic and based on open-air theatre skills that help to handle relationships between different cultures and heterogeneous audiences. They possess particular knowledge of complementary theatre elements like rhythm and voice, language and dramaturgy, scenery, choreography, co-ordination of gestures.

All of them know very well proxemics and body language which support their capacity to lead heterogeneous groups with participants coming from different origins, cultures, ages, interests, languages and schooling.



Recent projects:

- 2018** BORDERLESS\_MAUERSPRINGER (Faenza) community theatre workshop. A NEW DIALOGUE BETWEEN COMMUNITY AND THEATER - Co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union  
BORDERLESS SPECIAL EDITION community theatre workshop (Ravenna, Italy)  
THE TEMPEST (Faenza and Rome) story about migrations between theater, dance and poetry. Project winner of the MigrArti-MiBACT 2018 Call - 3rd edition  
IS THERE STILL A MAGICAL WORLD? (Cotignola)  
IL TEATRO DI OGNI GIORNO (Faenza) community theatre workshop aimed at teachers and parents  
IMEG Innovatives und multiperspektivisches Methodentool für eine multikulturelle europäische Gesellschaft - KA2 PARTENARIATO STRATEGICO ERASMUS+ (Faenza, Vienna, Friburgo, Palermo).
- 2017** BORDERLESS community theatre workshop (Faenza, Italy)  
BORDERLESS SPECIAL EDITION community theatre workshop (Ravenna, Italy)  
BORDERLESS SPECIAL EDITION community theatre workshop (Brescia, Italy)  
Street theatre as tool for social inclusion community theatre workshop(EL KEF , Tunisia).  
IMEG Innovatives und multiperspektivisches Methodentool für eine multikulturelle europäische Gesellschaft  
KA2 PARTENARIATO STRATEGICOERASMUS+ (Faenza, Vienna, Friburgo, Palermo)
- 2016** BORDERLESS community theatre workshop (Faenza, Italy)  
THE STAFFETTES OF WORK a community theatre workshop for the defense of a right (Faenza)  
BORDERLESS community theatre workshop(Porsgrunn, Norvegia) Porsgrunn International Theatre Festival
- 2015** BORDERLESS community theatre workshop (Faenza, Italy)  
BORDERLESS SPECIAL EDITION community theatre workshop (Bergamo, Italy)  
INCLUSION THROUGH THEATRE (Cologne, Germany) EU-project. Community theatre workshop (Portugal, Germany and France),  
THEATRE WORKSHOPS, PROGRAMME OF DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION FOR CHILDRENS' CONCERNS IN SERBIA (Loznica-Kragujevac, Serbia) community theatre workshop for children  
TO HAVE OR NOT TO HAVE Inclusion through theatre. EU-project. Community theatre workshop (Porto, Portugal), Festival Intenacional de Marionetas do Porto.  
INCLUSION THROUGH THEATRE (Lisbon, Portugal). EU-project. Community theatre workshop  
THE MAS ON STAGE (Vaulx-en-Velin, France). EU-project. A theatre workshop for an intercultural encounter in the heart of the town.  
THE STAFFETTES OF WORK a community theatre workshop for the defense of a right (Faenza)
- 2014** GIVING VOICE (Faenza) Language learning through theatre, in the frame of the EU-Grundtvig-programme.  
BORDERLESS community theatre workshop (Faenza, Italy)  
STREET ACCADEMY OF NAIROBI (Nairobi, Kenia). A triennial training programme about street theatre for teachers, in the frame of the AMREF-programme Children in need  
WORKSHOP - UNDERWORLD, (Cologne, Germany), Sommerblut - Festival der Multipolarkultur  
Thoughts about freedom (Fredrikstad, Norway)
- 2013** INCONTRI" ("Encounters") (Italy, Brazil, Bolivia, Portugal, France), European Project – YOUTH IN ACTION – action: Youth in the World (October 2012 to September 2013), aimed at social inclusion of more than 100 youngsters coming from socially and geographically disadvantaged areas in 4 different nations (rural villages in Bolivia, favelas in Brazil, suburbs of Porto)  
ACCADEMIA DI STRADA DI NAIROBI ("Street Academy of Nairobi") (Kenia), a three year project for education of street theatre teachers, part of the programme Children in need by AMREF Italy.
- 2012** AL-MASRAH (Italy and Palestine), European Project. Multicultural exchange between actors to empower and consolidate the artistic heritage and encourage the artistic talent of youngsters.  
CITTA' APERTA ("Open City"), promotional event of "Refugees' Project": round table with experts and researchers on the theme of Asylum Rights and Human Rights (March 2012)
- 2011-2012** CAROVANA METICCIA" ("Multicultural Caravan"), project aimed at social inclusion of political refugees.  
GIORNATA DELLA MEMORIA("Day of Memory"), workshops for colleges and street shows. Aim: to empower teenagers to think about the Holocaust through artistic work (September 2011 to June 2012)



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