



GIVING VOICE

a workshop to promote language learning and intercultural dialogue through theatre

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

The GIVING VOICE workshop is the result of years of theatre work with migrants and refugees. It teaches methods and makes experiences tangible that facilitate learning a new language and that can help to create an intercultural learning situation in which a mutual process of getting to know each other takes place. It is aimed at anyone who would like to get to know theatre as a tool for learning a language and promoting communication among strangers (e.g. teachers, lecturers working in adult education, social workers, cultural workers, mediators, coaches, etc.). Theatre experience is not a prerequisite.

WHY A THEATRE WORKSHOP FOR LITERACY?

Literacy is not only about being able to read and write, but also about knowing how to move in a social environment and relate to other people. In Europe, more and more different ethnic groups are coming together. Acquiring a new language is usually an inevitable step towards entering society. By promoting exchange and openness towards the other, theatre has a positive influence on the language learning process; for often the foreigner experiences not only the new language as foreign, but also the whole environment in which he or she finds himself.

That is why the workshop not only teaches tools for active language learning. A space is also created in which the participants come into contact with the cultural world of the language (tonality, facial expressions, gestures, paralinguistics). In addition, theatre exercises are introduced that trigger interaction with other people and non-verbal communication.

These methods can also be adopted by lay people and used, for example, in intercultural settings where people from different ethnic, cultural and social backgrounds meet who have neither theatre experience nor language skills. There, theatre can be a way to open people up to each other.

CONTENTS

The group - me and us

Theatre and contact exercises to get involved with oneself and with others, with emotions, looks and bodies.

The language - mine and yours

The sound of the mother tongue (Norwegian). The sound of the new language (Italian). Language exercises to form words and word chains in action. Composing simple dialogues based on the participants' life experience.

Language and music

Voice and singing exercises. The music of words. Phonetics exercises for correct imitation of sounds. Breathing. Rhythm exercises in movement. Choral singing. From word to song.

Playing and acting

Improvisation without words on real-life situations. Dialogues in action. Development of short group scenes. Examples of directing based on the combination of scenes. Sketching a play.

Reflection and exchange

The practical part of the workshop will be held in Italian in order to let the participants have an authentic experience of "being foreign". Theoretical explanations and moments of reflection and exchange will be translated into English.

The workshop will be led by the theatre director Alberto Grilli, the musician, music teacher and expert in vocal improvisation Antonella Talamonti and the actress Tanja Horstmann.

PEDAGOGICAL BACKGROUND

Since 2011 (the beginning of the "refugee wave" in Italy during the civil war in Libia), Teatro Due Mondi has been organising the intercultural workshop Senza Confini - Borderless once a week, where people with a refugee background and residents of the city meet.

La Casa del Teatro (the "theatre house") of Teatro Due Mondi has thus become an open meeting place where people of different origins, languages and cultures come together. The workshop is a way to make society more solidary and open. A place where people meet, get to know each other, exchange ideas and try to face the challenges of our time. A



time in which people from all over the world are converging on Old Europe, which is tempted to barricade itself behind walls and borders. In Senza Confini, a communal space is created in which it is learned in small steps within the group how the world can be made open, just, friendly and alive.

Thanks to the experience gained by Teatro Due Mondi in the Senza Confini Workshop, but also thanks to numerous other projects in the field of youth work, adult education and work with disadvantaged groups, the company has developed a method that is accessible to everyone: with the help of (street) theatre, intercultural dialogue, personal empowerment, understanding even without a common language and, more generally, tolerance and peaceful coexistence are promoted.

ABOUT THE GROUP

Teatro Due Mondi was founded in 1979 as an independent theatre group in Faenza/Italy. Its productions are suitable for everyone thanks to a universal language and aesthetics and can be performed outdoors and in a wide variety of spaces. The actors are rooted in their traditions, but at the same time open to new ways. They are constantly responding to changes in the world with their work. Their aim is to create a dialogue with the audience and to attract a new audience of people who do not normally go to the theatre.

The group has created more than 40 theatre productions, organised over 20 European and other projects, led countless workshops and given more than 4000 performances at festivals, on squares and in theatres in 34 countries.



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