



REBOOT: CAREI

Satu Mare, Romania – 16th-23rd November 2014

Project Report



What Was Done

Four facilitators from international backgrounds, all with experience of social exclusion, travelled to the small town of Carei in Northern Romania to deliver a programme of workshops on creative tools for social and personal transformation at the Spot Festival.

28 hours of workshops were delivered at no cost to participants, covering a range of styles and ideas including Theatre of the Oppressed, Identity Deconstruction, Trans-form-action and Ecstatic Dance. The aims were to introduce participants to an alternative theory of applied theatre, that being its use not only for the stage and performance but also for direct intervention in people's lives and their communities.

In addition, the facilitators produced several additional performances as part of the festival's programme, as well as performing at a local school for children from the Hungarian community.

Several of the workshops were attended by over 30 people, with the average attendance being around 7 to 12 people over the week. The children's school performance had an audience of several hundred youth. Also, representatives were able to network with a large number of theatre practitioners from an international background. In addition, our first crowdfunding campaign raised back the total cost of the project, meaning that all this was achieved at no loss to Reboot the Roots – a major funding success!



Who Benefited From What Was Done

The financial support provided by RtR granted facilitators the opportunity to further develop their experience, skills and confidence in their field, whilst further encouraging the development and application of arts as a tool for promoting social cohesion.

The delivery of theatre workshops with a radical perspective, i.e. that of the potential or an arts practice to create personal and social growth and transformation, is uncommon in Romanian theatre tradition. Dozens of people attended the workshops and were guided through a process of personal and emotional exploration, being encouraged to push their limits, physically and mentally, whilst also exploring themes around the ideas of mask and ritual. A key question to emerge from one workshop was 'do we create the mask, or does the mask create us?'. Not only was this a demonstration of techniques, but participants actively benefitted from the therapeutic process.

RtR's support also allowed associate artists Kurt Murray and Iulia Benze of PlayHouse International to premiere their children's show 'Remember Doctor Bubble – the Bubble Magician', which they will now take to the International Busker's Festival in Adelaide, Australia. Although not directly affiliated with RtR, this is the kind of independent, autonomous work that is complementary to the logistical and financial support RtR can give. George Wielgus was also able to premiere his spoken word show during the festival and host an interactive Saturday night poetry jam.

Workshop attendees were predominately from the theatre universities of Romania, however a significant number were local to the area working in other fields, but practicing theatre in their free time. It was one of these who attended 100% of the programme and expressed what a meaningful experience it had been – achieving a key objective of RtR being to include people with little access to the arts.

What Will Happen Next

Attendance at the Spot Festival allowed significant face-to-face access with national and international practitioners with an interest in the work of our facilitation team. Building on the success of Reboot: Brasov, Reboot: Carei has potentially lined up work and more workshops for our facilitation team from March to September 2015 – including several projects focusing on delivering workshops on creative tools for social transformation, or potentially working for NGOs training trainers in Theatre of the Oppressed to work with young people and the Roma community – a section of Romanian society who suffer the extremes of social exclusion.

However, one thing we have learned is that nothing is ever certain in Romania! With this in mind, Creative Director George Wielgus will keep the trustees informed as the projects take a more solid form. All in all, RtR's operations are looking great for 2015!