

#REACTOR
DE CREATIE SI EXPERIMENT CLUJ-NAPOCA

in partnership with

Reboot the Roots
Formerly Fallen Leaves UK presents,

THE
ALTERNATIVE
ACTORS
WORKSHOP
SERIES 2014

Theatre of the Oppressed

Identity Deconstruction

Trans-Form-Action

Theatre Sports



For the first time in Cluj, Romania!

October, 2014

Venue:

strada Petofi Șandor, nr 4, Cluj-Napoca
(for schedule please visit our facebook page)

This series presents professional performers with an intense, fun and exciting experience over one week. Learn a wide variety of new skills to set you apart or redirect your career. Facilitated by KurtMurray(Australia), George Wielgus(UK) and Iulia Benze(Romania).

For more information email: spatiureactor@gmail.com, iulia.benze@yahoo.com or go to

facebook.com/
ReactorCluj



facebook.com/
rebootroots

The Alternative Actors Series **Proposal, Romania, 2014**

REBOOT THE ROOTS AND PLAYHOUSE INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS:

THE ALTERNATIVE ACTORS WORKSHOP SERIES

OVERVIEW

Four professional facilitators with experience of social exclusion and a combined knowledge of over forty years as educators, directors, performers and dramaturges are bringing five-days of workshops designed to challenge and evolve participants. Personally, physically, psychologically and emotionally intense, these workshops are designed to benefit both actors and non-actors, and are accessible for all levels regardless of language ability and previous experience.

The project came about from discussions with socially excluded artists Kurt Murray and Iulia Benze discussing how although Romania has fantastic theatre schools, they tend to be extremely traditional in their approach (Shakespeare, text based, etc). We collectively decided that it would be great to start doing social-spiritual theatre workshops with people and start to try and provide something alternative ... hence the Alternative Actors series.

The workshops cover a melange of techniques and styles drawn from alternatives to traditional theatre education, which focus on personal development and an awareness of our roles in society as part of the ongoing essential theatre. Participants in these workshops can expect to develop not only their performance skills, but also their confidence, public speaking and ability to achieve their desires in the future. The design helps us understand our past, engage with our present, and create our future, focusing on theatre that accomplishes something, rather than being 'art for art's sake'.

Our shared philosophy is that drama and theatre can be used to help people heal old wounds, be they emotional, psychological or mental, and provide a new vision of how we can act together to bring about a meaningful evolution within our society.

These workshops will be open to all, regardless of previous ability and experience, and are intended to promote applied theatre as a means of developing social cohesion. Romania is ideal location for RtR's work as Romanian's in Britain and across Europe often face exclusion and racism towards them, and within the country there are many marginalised communities such as the Roma and people living with disabilities who need support in integrating into the mainstream.

The proposed dates are 15-19 September (Brasov), 27-31 October (Cluj) and 18-28 November (Carei). Carei will include performances at the Spot Festival with actors and nonactors, built on the work done there by the team in August, plus the workshops.

THE TEAM

Four professional performing artists, all with personal experience of social exclusion, are presenting a new selection of workshops brought through their latest research. Our endeavour is to present the best games, exercises and techniques available to continue to stretch abilities as performers, to fully develop potential as a human being. and to empower change through dialogue on social issues.

Kurt Murray (AUS): Holds over two decades of theatre experience and has worked as an actor, designer, producer, teacher, street performer, professional wrestler and as a director. His quest for finding new levels of performance has led him to work and learn from acting masters in Iran to Qi Gong masters in China. He has trained with Eugenio Barba's company in London and teaches at the Sylvia Young Theatre and Delfont Mackintosh in London. In 2013 he brought a unique vision of Faust to Romania's Spot Theatre Festival in 2013 to critical and popular acclaim. This year he and Iulia Benze devised a postmodern performance of a traditional Romanian myth Mesterul Manole in Satu Mare, which will be premiered at the Spot festival 2014. Cofounder of Playhouse International

Iulia Benze (ROM): Began her acting career in Romania in 2005 and continued her career in the United Kingdom, after graduating a Master degree in Performance Practice and Research at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London. She has an in-depth knowledge of feminism, psychoanalysis and stuckism in performance. Presently she is translating academic theatre books for Odin Theatre Company, Denmark, whilst being a key innovator and organiser of the Alternative Actors project. Iulia co-founded the theatre company CRAFT in London in 2012 which created the style of performance development featured in these workshops (www.craft-theatre.com). She has been fundamental in bringing these workshops to Romania for the first time, being intrinsically involved in the development, rehearsal and direction of the recent pioneering performances of Galeria Umana Mesterul Manole in Satu Mare. Cofounder of Playhouse International. For more information see iuliabenze.com

Naima Dell'ava (IT): Has a Masters in Drama therapy from the University of Rome Tor Vergata and specialises in psychosocial rehabilitation and sexual abuse support groups. She has trained with the Living Theatre in New York and directly with Odin Teatret, as well as having extensive international experience as a street performer and arts activist. Amongst others, she has worked on projects in Uruguay, Argentina, Malaysia and Turkey, as well as across Europe. She was resident artist at the Lost Generation Artspace in Kuala Lumpur in 2009, and was an associate artist with the Bangun! Festival in Penang, which was attended by over 5000 people over a single weekend.

George Wielgus (UK): is certified in Joker Training and the therapeutic theatre technique the Rainbow of Desire, having trained under Augusto Boal's protégé Adrian Jackson with London based TO company Cardboard Citizens for six months. Since 2010 he has been the Creative Director of UK-based NGO Reboot The Roots..

THE WORKSHOPS

Theatre of the Oppressed ... 3 sessions, with George Wielgus

Augusto Boal posits that as politics in the highest union of science and art, then all human interaction and engagements are inherently political. With this in mind, he argues that the personal is political, and that personal problems are social problems. Within this, he asserts that all human interaction is essentially theatre, and that by understanding this, we can seize control of our lives and therefore recreate the world and its' future as we see fit.

The arsenal of techniques of the Theatre of the Oppressed is a system of games and exercises designed to humanise humanity and create a dialogue whereby people can shrug off the oppression of society's monologue and engage in a meaningful discussion through the use of theatre.

These workshops are designed to introduce three different techniques for the personal development and liberation of participants, namely, image theatre, forum theatre and the Rainbow of Desire.

Collectively, the three workshops will give participants a real experience of the techniques, but also will allow them to understand their past, activate their present and create their future.

Identity Deconstruction, 3 sessions with Kurt Murray & Iulia Benze

Take risks and attack fears through a series of exercises designed to provide better platform of courage, self-knowledge and limits. Fear is at the forefront of this workshop as you will be pushed, physically and emotionally past any boundary you could have ever considered. At the heart of exhaustion you can find your greatest peace as a performer and utilising the tools of this series you will be introduced to new layers of your own identity that will set a new sense of self for the stage.

Using a mixture of techniques from Jerzy Grotowski, Eugenio Barba, Baji Qi Gong, Astanga Yoga in a process newly termed as a 'theatre of exhaustion'. By overcoming the limits of our endurance and pushing ourselves emotionally and physically, we can break free of patterns of behaviour and thought that have become limitations on our potential. Only by breaking down ourselves can we rebuild something new and realise our unlimited potential for growth and development.

Exercises include a careful after-care programme to catch the emotional breakthroughs and channel them in a meaningful manner, consisting of meditation and energy redistribution to heal and consolidate the experience. Participants can expect to do things they never thought possible, to face themselves emotionally and openly, and then generate new strength and inspiration from the experience.

Theatre of exhaustion is connected to Stuckism, or better said the Stuckist manifesto in theatre.

Stuckist Psychoanalytic Performance technique promotes self-discovery quest for authenticity, calling for subjects like performer's neurosis or unconscious, generating unseen psychological realities by means of novelty, shock, gimmick and Cruelty.

We strongly believe that the only performance act that makes a difference is the one that drives the audience completely insane, only to heal and curate at the end of it.

Trans-form-action, 2 sessions with Naima Dell'ava

The idea of 'trans-form-action': using a variety of different techniques and exercises the participants are encouraged to explore new dimensions of themselves. It's a guided journey of self-exploration and acknowledgment through the artistic channel. Going beyond the structures, the forms, the identities that shape us all, to explore what is left afterwards. Being exposed to different paradoxical situations in order to re-connect with the inner core. Trans-form through the Action of Being.

Utilising the philosophy and approach of drama therapy, these workshops are an interior developmental process involving the externalisation of inner issues in order to overcome them and grow as human beings.

Theatre Sports, 2 sessions

At the core of all performance is the beauty and freedom of improvisation. One of the most fun experiences a performer can ever have is the daring world of competition Theatre Sports. Keith Johnstone the father of improvisation's greatest gift to the world of impro is theatre sports, a fundamental cornerstone of entertainment. Its specific rigorous rules open and challenge the mind, teach people the art of humour and layer a solid base for any type of advanced creation. This workshop teaches you the skills required to generate powerful on the spot improvisations to leave a crowd in stitches with laughter and work through to total and complete improvised narrative plays.

WHY REBOOT THE ROOTS SHOULD BE INVOLVED

RtR's financial and logistical support is requested because of the following benefits to the organisation and participants::

- to encourage the development and growth of socially excluded artists directly through providing financial and logistical support for their projects and aspirations
- to develop the capacity of RtR projects through the direct involvement of more facilitators with experience of social exclusion
- to promote dialogue and discussion on the use of arts as a medium for social change and civic engagement in a culturally and economically impoverished area of Europe (Carei, Satu Mare)

- to promote dialogue and discussion on the use of arts as a medium for social change and civic engagement in an established cultural and economic centre (Brasov)
- to promote dialogue and discussion on the use of arts as a medium for social change and civic engagement in an area of prestigious education in the arts (Cluj)
- to potentially reach an audience of hundreds of young people interested and studying in the arts and share our message and vision through workshops and dialogue (Spot Festival, Carei)
- to support performing arts productions featuring mixed groups of professional and non-actors, as a model of social cohesion through the arts (Spot Festival)
- to establish RtR as an organisation operating within the EU and expand our network
- to initialise a potential annual project in Romania

FUNDING STRATEGIES

As we have seen with the Kdei Karuna collaboration in Cambodia and the shelter home in Batu Arang, an initial investment and support structure can potentially lead to a self-funding and autonomous project. As Artistic Director I feel this is an opportune moment to gather a significant amount of support and capacity for the future of RtR whilst remaining in line with our vision and mission.

In addition to receiving financial and logistical support from RtR, this project has great potential in a number of areas for generating more finance. The work of Iulia Benze and Kurt Murray in Satu Mare and previously in the Spot Festival has generated a large network of sympathetic people and a lot of exciting documentation that would be perfect to support the launch of our first Kickstarter campaign. The facebook group has shown an unprecedented amount of hits due to our successful project in Brasov in collaboration with the ERAN Centre, as well as the work done in Satu Mare, which received widespread media coverage.

Also, participants are self-funding their own air tickets, and their own in-country travel costs. Accommodation is being provided for five days in Carei, during the festival, by our Romanian partners. Accommodation has been confirmed during the Brasov workshops.

My recommendation as Artistic Director is to fund the shortfall in the budget (£1,200) and then attempt to recoup 50% of this amount through a Kickstarter campaign.

BUDGET

| Total Cost of the Project | Per person | Total (x4 persons) |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Flights | £100 | £400 |
| Transport (in Country) | £50 | £200 |
| Accommodation (x20 days) | £275 | £1100 |
| Per diem (x20 days) | £200 | £800 |
| TOTAL | £625 | £2500 |

Funding provided

| | | |
|---|-------------|--------------|
| Flights (self-funded) | £100 | £400 |
| Transport (self-funded) | £50 | £200 |
| Accommodation (funded by Romanian partners) | £175 | £600 |
| TOTAL | £325 | £1300 |

Funding requested from RtR

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Accommodation | £100 | £400 |
| Per diem (x20 days) | £200 | £800 |
| TOTAL | £300 | £1200 |

Projected funding to be received

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Kickstarter campaign | £600 |
|----------------------|------|

Alternative Actors Series in Brasov

<https://www.facebook.com/events/326990710801828/?fref=ts>

Spot Festival, Carei

<https://www.facebook.com/festivalulspot.carei?fref=t>

*****UPDATED NOVEMBER 2014*****

Due to circumstances beyond the organisers control, the Cluj series of workshops had to be delayed. However, due to the success of the Brasov series in generating interest and future potential partnerships, the Creative Director feels it is imperative that we support the facilitators attendance at the Spot Festival in Carei.

The facilitators are booked to do the full series of workshops, plus additional performances with non-actors for non-traditional theatre audiences, much in line with RtR's vision and aim.

The aims of the project are to consolidate the development of our core team of facilitators; to promote arts for social cohesion and the work of RtR in Romania to potential partner organisations; to perform and workshop alongside non-theatre audiences with non-actors.

The beneficiaries will be the facilitators participating, the participants at the workshops, and the audiences at the public performances.

There are four facilitators, potentially up to 20 people per workshop (20 x 10 sessions = 200 people), and then audiences of up to 200 at three different performances.

Satu Mare is a culturally and economically deprived area of Romania that our facilitators have visited three times before over the last two years, confirming the need for socially-conscious theatre interventions here.

The project has received interest from several other NGOs working in Romania with the socially excluded as well as several established arts organisations in Brasov and Carei. It meets our funding priorities as we will be supporting the ongoing development of four people with direct experience of social exclusion.

The key aims are to support the development of the facilitators and expand awareness of our aims as a project. We will support the facilitators directly with funding and logistical support to expand capacity, whilst the workshops will be provided free for people to attend.

The key activities are the provision of a series of workshops connected with personal and social development and the support of performances by socially excluded actors. Dates included are above. Funding is included below.

Progress will be monitored by the Creative Director through interviews with the facilitators and participants over the course of the festival and beyond. Results will be evaluated through a retrospective comparison with the facilitators past experiences, and through discussion with facilitators on the benefits to participants in the workshops and performances. This information will be fed into the planning and organisation of future events with this team.

When the project continues, it will be funded in partnership with Romanian partners or through the encouragement of facilitators to generate more income for their participation. The Creative Director is confident that through collecting testimonials, evidence and documentation, we will be able to generate increased interest and financial support for our efforts. This information will be disseminated through our social networks but also emailed directly to potential clients in Romania and beyond in the form of a sales package.

| BUDGET (Amended) | | |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Total Cost of the Project | Per person | Total (x4 persons) |
| Flights | £100 | £400 |
| Transport (in Country) | £50 | £200 |
| Accommodation (x10 days) | £100 | £400 |
| Per diem (x10 days) | £100 | £400 |
| TOTAL | £350 | £1400 |
| Funding provided | | |
| Flights (self-funded) | £100 | £400 |
| Transport (self-funded) | £50 | £200 |
| Accommodation (by Romanian partners) | £50 | £200 |
| TOTAL | £200 | £800 |
| Funding requested from RtR | | |
| Accommodation | £50 | £200 |
| Per diem (x10 days) | £100 | £400 |
| TOTAL | £150 | £600 |
| Projected funding to be received (approx) | | |
| Kickstarter campaign | | £600 |