



FOCUS ATELIER: Theatre of the Oppressed & Identity Deconstruction ... Cluj-Napoca, 20th-31st March, 2015

1) What did you think of the experience overall?

It was a long and powerful experience. Long enough to have an impact, powerful enough to remind it from now on. I got new ways of emotional expression and the contact with new people, with different backgrounds, helped in this process of emotional healing. Overall, it came for me at perfect moment and I'm happy that I was attending this workshop.

2) Which parts of the workshops worked best?

- imagine and act your normal, worst, ideal and future day
- mechanizing sounds and movements in order to break the machine
- the first two scenarios: the border story and the cafeteria – really close to some true and veridical moments

3) What could be improved?

- maybe, with a bit of facilitation, the participants can decide different ideas of forum theatre in the streets at the end of the workshop (because we didn't do too much, even the bike stealing was a nice story). The final discussion can have a structure, even if the facilitator (George in this case) wants to step back – more because we were people with different backgrounds and it's difficult to decide a common thing, a structure is needed. Splitting in smaller groups can be also a good idea here.
- nothing else :D

4) How will you use what you learned in the workshops?

- I want to put in practice in different groups some games and exercises that I liked
- I will sing more and I will shout more in the streets :)
- aaand maybe I will get involved in some troubles in the streets but in the end I'll say that it was theatre :))

5) What would you like more training in?

- theatre of oppressed in different specific problems. I would like to take clear examples of oppression and work with forum theatre on them. But it will require a more compact group of participants. I'm curious how you can develop a training on that (I bet that is different)

6) What did you think of the quality of training given by the facilitators?

- I liked that from the beginning was presented a clear structure of the training. I liked that there were a lot of discussions about what we think, how we feel, how we act. I liked that every morning George had a look back and a sum of the activities from the other days (non-participation is always a choice, what we've done a day before etc) and also a feedback in the end. I really liked that every exercise had a clear meaning and all of them had a link with the other. I really felt that I was learning something coherent and meaningful.

7) Which experiences had the most impact on you?

- people in their future day join my future moments in which I would require support and community → that was encouraging!
- was nice to realize what was my happy moment – the one that I chose to represent at the mechanical sound game :)
- the scenarios for forum theatre were like real life, and we were so engaged that I enjoyed to see how different persons react in some moments – even how I acted!
→ “I was one of you” - fuck! That was hard!

8) How has the training been useful for your work?

- How I said, I want to put in practice in different groups in which I'm active some games and exercises that I liked and I will try to see if I can explain/heal/alleviate some specific factors of oppression through some games and forum theatre.

ANY OTHER COMMENTS ...

I wrote above my feedback for the first 8 days of RtR. For the second part of the workshop, Kurt and Iulia's part, I will try to give some feedback here:

I didn't get from the first day what's the purpose of the workshop. So maybe because of this lack of info, what I will say further can be out of subject.

This idea of “identity deconstruction” through disparate exercise it seems to me nonsense (stick game, physical exercises, walking in the room and get connected with people in different manners, express some negative or positive feelings through movements etc). Where was the deconstruction and how was the identity influenced?

I recognize that I got angry at the stick game moment. And not because it was hard for my body – unused with physical exercises – but it looked for me like horoscope. Identifying fears inside us through that game it wasn't something real. Kurt could show in that moment wherever fear in a person and Waw that person had that fear! I didn't get connected at all with that game. But you said that! That maybe some people will not get something from it. I was the case then.

After that, the crying and loneliness moment, with specific movements: hard to be me! And why to be me? - again, I don't get the idea of that movements in contact with my feelings. Maybe I'm more sober or I'm not so connected with my body, would say. But in this case, disparate exercises without a real connection between them, without a simple explanation at least, cannot help. Then, maybe the workshop was for students that are learning how to act: could be more clear.

So, for me, the lack of a clear structure, what is the meaning of the workshop, what we want to get from it, how this exercises go together, how the body can be involved in identity deconstruction, how sport theatre is working, etc – are all minuses.

Another minus was the fact that the two workshops were connected. Why were them together? Not clear for me. I didn't get the link between them.

And here is also about time consuming and my priorities after 10 days of workshop.

So, I would like to mention also the beautiful moment in which I did the bridge – it passed more than 8 years since I didn't do that! Thanks!

Was nice also the game with 6 ways to say I love you! And it got a real connection with my life after that, dancing for someone :) Thanks for that also!

Good luck and best wishes!