



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

EVALUATION

1) What did you think of the experience overall?

In little words, it was stunning. Even now, past a month, I am thinking about it and get new comprehension of it and I am grateful that I took part in this.

2) Which parts of the workshops worked best?

Besides the workshops in themselves, the overall atmosphere was constructive. I liked the fact that all of the workshops made me think a lot and made me connect lots of dots regarding my past experiences, my views and ideas. These process was extended also in the break times and in the time off. Hard to delimit them*. I was literally going to sleep full of questions, I was dreaming on them, and experiencing them the next day. Which parts worked best???... What I think it worked (much more a fluid thing), was the fact that on way or another, (thought Forum, improvisations, fizication, or through real discussions in the time off) we had to deal one with each other (I remember the distinction George made about dialog and monolog. Great one mate!). Lots of instruments for communication and empathize and a great time combining them. I observed a lot, when it was visible that some of the participants encounter difficulties in reach one to each other, and I observed when for me was difficult, and I've literally enjoyed it. Much more than anything else it was a huge introspective process.

*Ever thought of invisible workshops? ☺

3) What could be improved?

I am wondering if one should take the full experience as it is occurring, or try to change what happens in order to improve the process. I was also wondering about this during the workshops. When it is happening, I think everybody has the right to bring their ideas and question everything. I was a little bit sceptical about the happenings proposed during Iulia and Kurt workshop. I felt right to rise the question if not our happenings would have the same effect as `vivant statues`? (on which I don't have much interest). At the same time, I was thinking that empowering people to do their own stuff on public space might be good thing to do. And we discuss on it. Doing the happenings was in fact awesome, and after we actually did it, I think that it was for sure a good thing to do.

I appreciated a lot that all the three manage to propose their own line of exercices inspired by different practices and techniques. Honestly, I appreciate the most the feeling that we are part in something that is constantly in development. I rather prefer this than an strict ABC or a strict manual, it is something fresh in it. Nevertheless, there are some points in which I felt that we've needed more time to explore. For exemple some of the exercices in Georges, Iulia's and Kurt's workshops remind me a lot about contact impro, and contact impro in itself is a huge domain, so probably if we approach them, we should allow us a little bit more time to explore them in order to understand better at what use there are. This balance of calibrating I think is constantly in evolution, and I think that is good to be so. My only advice would be: keep your path! :)

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

HOHOO! So... I was interested before in Theatre of the Oppressed and psychodrama, and I was thinking that I would like to do this further. Now I am sure that I will. I was already asked to facilitate two workshop series on Theatre Forum by myself :D so I can't be happier. Also, two from the participants want to facilitate workshops using some of the techniques they had experienced. We are thinking of teaching ourselves to do it. We are also trying to get a theatre laboratory to work and experience more by ourselves.

5) What would you like more training in?

Well, as I said, I would like to explore more on Theatre of the Oppressed and psychodrama and perhaps becoming myself a Joker in Theatre of the Oppressed. But I don't think that it is a single, straight way to do it. I am interested also in Lacanian psychoanalysis, psychodrama, contact impro... and so on. That's what I liked at this series, the fact that I could connect what we were doing with lots of stuff from other domains that I'm interested in.

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

They have different areas of interest and are pretty honest in exploring those areas and getting them accessible for others. The three facilitators have their own style of proposing stuff and express stuff and I think everyone is doing a great job.

7) Which experiences had the most impact on you?

Lots of moments came into my head, but I remember the, I think more than half an hour of free improvisation based on an anti-model, in which all of the people present joined. Two aspects made me think a lot. First was the fact that I could go and meet the characters with which I wanted to interact following probably my own introspection and I didn't need or get to know what is happening in other parts of the room. Then, the second, was the fact that in the after discussion, I found out that what I thought I have had influenced in the improvisation have had actually lots of other causes based on other interactions. This made me wonder about what is the history of an event since everybody plays an own part in making the event happen and then, everybody plays an own part in the storytelling that recounts the event.

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

I have some exercises which I can't wait to explore in some performances that I'll prepare. Also, I am thinking forward into becoming a facilitator in Theatre of the Oppressed, and although I had some theoretical backgrounds on it, this was actually my first encounter with the practices that it involves.

ANY OTHER COMMENTS ...

Lots of love and gratefully thanks!