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Shadow theatre

Shadow Theatre is a form of performing arts in which the characters from a script come to life by playing them in the form of a shadow in front of a light source. For a shadow play we need an opaque screen, a light source, a series of "puppets" that can be built from different materials and artists-wielders, that will give life to the characters.

A Shadow Theater starts with words from a text. This text can be created within the team, starting from a real experience, with different methods, or can be taken from different sources. The main effort in the context of the nonformal learning process is "translating" the text into a dynamic image sequence, so that the key messages to be transmitted more efficiently.

Participants in activities which shadow theater is used as a nonformal learning method get to understand, master and transmit a type of alternative communication which can help them critically evaluate a constructive all posts are exposed to daily. Challenges during the learning process are due to discovering the limits of visual communication of ideas or situations clear on the universe of written words and of manners in which these limitations can be overcome. At the same time the participants develop cooperation and coordination skills. All this effort leads to a positive modeling of the teamwork in a more engaged, more socially responsible manner.

The roots of this art can be found from the time when man came to master fire and brought it within its house. Flames dancing on the walls capture the imagination transforming into fantasy characters the silhouettes of objects, of humans and animals. From here to the representation on less opaque surfaces of the outlines of figures made specifically to represent mythical characters and deities, was not much. Dramatic situations were amplified through unifying the voices of the characters and their movement on right rhythms and melodies.

What do you need to work with in theatre of shadows?

Light source - may be just a bulb from a lamp, but can also be more complicated - a projector or a projector for animation effects. Outside campfire can be used.

A screen - you have to let light pass, without entering into the eyes of viewers, (can be made of opaque materials: paper, textile or monochrome plastic from a shower curtain).

Different materials (cardboard, paper, plastic transparent or colored, objects with varying degrees of opacity or spectacular material - for example, lace, sand, pine needles, etc). To



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achieve silhouettes with complex featuring mobility you will need wire, pliers, for some cards even staples. For transparencies you can draw with special colors or just with permanent markers.

Workspace – you will need penumbra and as the project develops even darkness

Work stages

Stage 1 - Knowledge of participants, creating a sense of emotional comfort.

Stage 2 – Disinhibition through sensory games, specific to all educational methods involving theater; presenting some shadow theater techniques.

Stage 3 - Choosing or creating the text that will form the basis for performance.

Stage 4 - "Translation" of the text in a series of scenes in which the main characters are in the most iconic moments of the epic discourse and outlining a directorial cut.

Stage 5 - Testing techniques and methods for implementing the plan developed in the previous stage.

Stage 6 - Building detailed scenes and repeating them until begins to complete the picture.

Stage 7 - Organizing a small reveal for friends, that will say what they understood .

Stage 8 - Presentation of the performing to public.

Stage 9 – Dissemination of the method to other organizations.

Why doing shadow theatre?

- No significant resources involved;
- Shows resulted can be presented in unconventional places;
- Shadow Theater projects can be developed within groups of at least 2 and maximum 20 participants
- Projects with target groups from different ages can be developed
- The visual language used by the method makes it accessible and useful for intercultural groups

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