

FACING THE GAP

Drama workshop in two acts **organised by InSite and Trafó** **22nd to 25th June, 2015.** **Trafó, Budapest**

1) Chinese Whisper - drama and theatre education in China

A one day demonstration and workshop about the state of education, Drama and Theatre in Education in China, and the approach and programmes of Drama Rainbow. The workshop will be led by the facilitators of Drama Rainbow.

China, a perfect incarnation of authoritarian education, has produced the world's best test scores at the cost of diverse, creative, and innovative talents

From Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Dragon by Yong Zhao (Jossey-Bass, 2014)

This process of education is increasingly displacing children within the culture. The curriculum that they are force fed from an increasingly young age (with the mistaken aim of making the child more 'successful', more competitive in life) on a daily basis in kindergarten and formal schooling is denying them access to their lived experience as social and historical beings. Children struggle being their 'self' at the expense of becoming something else for authority in the form of parents, the extended family, school and state institutions. The process is pervasive and aggressive, and undermines the capacity to be successful in the most important sense – being a happy and successful 'self' with a mind of its own.



Placing this context at the beginning of the workshop, practitioners from Drama Rainbow will demonstrate how the above is not the entire case for every child attending DR. While most of the young people vacillate between extreme lack of concentration and disruption on the one hand and ultra-passivity on the other, what DR struggles to develop is a community and public space that aims to (re)structure modern family in connecting self and society in the most rapidly changing country of the world. The workshop explores how drama is used to enhance ownership of young people in China in the historical, social and cultural context by inviting participants to step in the site of the Chinese whisper.

Cao Xi, professional director of Drama Rainbow

In English - with Hungarian translation

22nd June, 2015. from 10:00 to 16:30

Trafó - Studio, 1094 Budapest, Liliom u. 41.

Organisers will provide tea and coffee in the breaks. Participants will need to cover their own travel, accommodation and meal costs.

Participation is free of charge but registration is required, because of the limited number of places.

You need to register separately for the two events on the link below.

Registration: Chinese Whisper: <http://goo.gl/forms/Q4QlvbQkWT>

The organisers will contact you soon about the status of your registration.

2) Common grounds - workshops on the theatrical and educational exploration of three concepts

The feeling of isolation and the lack of social engagement is more and more a global concern. We believe that drama can offer the appropriate forms and a public space for young people to engage and face the most pressing problems of our times.

The three day English language workshop will build on drama in education methodology and the theoretical work of Edward Bond, and will look at how contemporary problems can be dramatized in meaningful ways.

Besides offering a theoretical background for Centre, Site and Cathexis, participants will explore how to use them in theatre and in educational settings.

Participants will also work in groups on specific scenes and situations and their exploration for educational purposes.



Workshop leaders: facilitators of InSite and Drama Rainbow

The workshop will be in English.

23rd to 25th June, 2015. 10:00 to 17:00

Venue: Trafó - Kontra Klub, 1094 Budapest, Liliom u. 41.

Organisers will provide tea and coffee in the breaks. Participants will need to cover their own travel, accommodation and meal costs.

Participation is free of charge, but because of the limited number of places registration is required.

Registration: Common Grounds: <http://goo.gl/forms/HAb1XAwaBC>

You need to register separately for the two events on the link below.

The organisers will contact you soon about the status of your registration.

More about our international partner:

Located in Beijing, **Drama Rainbow Education Centre** is a hub for progressive education, arts education and a centre of community. It's aimed to create public or civic spaces for dialogue, where young people learn what it is to be human, and to create socially engaged and caring adults.

The centre has seven main bodies:

- the Drama Centre for young people aged 3 to 18
- a Theatre in Education Centre
- a youth theatre centre for youth and adolescents
- a Teaching and learning Centre
- a Research Centre a play centre for children under 3
- a community centre for parents, educationists, policy makers

Website: <http://en.dramarainbow.com/>



The organisers:

InSite's vision is to facilitate facing the most pressing problems of our times through drama and to enable changes in understanding of individuals' concerning their values and stance; so that they are able to act responsibly in society and become active agents of change.

The organisation's work affects primarily the youth and children age-group directly or indirectly. To achieve greater social impact we also work with decision makers, communities and higher education institutions. The



organisation works on an international level, primarily in Europe, but connecting to professionals worldwide.

The organisation's work is based on theatre in education and drama in education practices pioneered in the UK and the drama theory of Edward Bond, creating possibilities of dramatic engagement where participants can question their received cultural values and biases through situations, and make meaning of events freely to form their own values in relation to the problems under scrutiny.

Website: www.insite-drama.eu

Trafó House of Contemporary Arts in Budapest, a receptive venue unique to Hungary, is embedded in the international contemporary scene, where the various genres – theater, dance, new circus, music and other visual arts – are presented in an individual and authentic manner.



Trafó is a mediating site dedicated to social issues, a platform for establishing values and contexts as well as generating new ideas and productions. Its performances, concerts, exhibitions, community and audience-building programs address a number of different generations, viewers of all kinds open to something new, whilst in its operation devoting special attention to the younger generations.

Website: www.trafo.hu

About the project:

The **Facing the Gap** project aims to develop and advocate the use of arts in youth work. The project sees the importance of opening spaces through artistic creation where young people have the freedom to face the burning problems of our times and reach new understandings, to take responsibility for their thoughts and action. We believe there is an immense need for this space and working on problems socially in times when most of Europe is radicalizing, and populism and political apathy take their toll.

The partnership created from organizations from the UK, Malta, Hungary and China builds on similarities of methodology and theoretical background and the common wish to develop and spread this methodology.

Budapest will host a number of the projects events, trainings, workshops for young people and a conference as well.

Website: www.facingthegap.eu

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