

Theatre in Community - Project „Luz Que Anda”

(“the travelling light”)

A Brazilian – German project between the community Serra Negra/Minas Gerais and The Academy of Music and Theatre Rostock
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Heads of the Project:

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- Geralda Guevara (Education in Brazil)
- Taciana Soares (Education in Brazil)
- Representatives of the village population
- University INESP Divinópolis,
UF Ouro Preto as partners

The Project:

- An illustration of the use of applied drama in community work
- An example of the use of Drama as a method of intervention
- The objective is exchange and not help.
- Luz que anda is a cross-cultural and community theatre project
- Our aim is to enhance the participants' consciousness of their conditions.
- It will help all members to reach their potential and diminish abuses.
- Children and adolescents need to be empowered so that they can take charge of their own lives and the future of their community.
- we consider theatre as a method of social change:
 - Theatre as the basis for the development of personality and group process abilities
 - Theatre as a technique to establish problem solving methods
 - Performance oriented theatre through own production or reworking of literary adaptations
 - Theatre as a means of guided reflection with community members
 - Theatre as a method to promote reflection among facilitator teams

The particular forms and techniques used are selected in relation to the problems at hand, the context, the momentary needs and competencies of the group or the individuals involved. In fact, flexibility and improvisation have become the hall mark of the theatre work and group process.

A summary of the kind of experiences that lead us to apply the described principles and techniques in such complex and variable ways that they flow into each other:

- While play is often seen as an activity limited to children we view play as a learning mechanism central to human development at large
- Play serves to develop physical, vocal and speech abilities
- Play helps us clear our minds and enhances our imagination
- Play teaches reciprocity and sensitivity to the perspectives of others
- Play reveals problems that in conversation may be merely dismissed in a lamenting fashion
- Conversation complicates matters that clarify and resolve themselves in play
- Conflicts can be portrayed more sharply within the security of a play situation
- The acting out of conflict situations in play allows for a more intricate analysis of the elements of conflict
- Within the transparent structure created by play new problem solving steps can be tested and practiced
- The collective picture of a particular situation allows for a role exchange and role play which allowing the expression of different perspectives
- Play triggers action, involving all participants including the audience as a partner
- Finally, through character development, stepping into a role and the acting within a role we discover:
 - the next available course of action and behaviour options
 - we design new unfamiliar patterns of behaviour
 - we integrate new patterns of behaviour into our own repertoire

