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Rehearsing for Transformation: Theatre of the Oppressed, Pedagogy and Human Rights

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Rehearsing for Transformation: Theatre of the Oppressed, Pedagogy and Human Rights

Amir Al-Azraki[1] Graphic Design by Janna Martin

The report showcases a series of TO training workshops and projects in several contexts and settings. The aim of the report is to show how TO techniques and forms could contribute to the transformation of the learning environment and the social justice issues relevant to diverse communities across cultures (North America, Latin America, Middle East). It highlights and facilitates critical discourse and interchange through working with various participants (students, faculty, refugees, women, artists, prison staff etc.) and tackling significant issues such as trauma, violence, oppression, discrimination, gender inequality and homophobia. The report shows how TO could be used as a powerful tool to promote social change and critical pedagogy.

[1] Amir Al-Azraki (Ph.D. York University, Canada, 2011) is an Iraqi-Canadian playwright, literary translator and an Assistant Professor of Arabic language, literature, and culture at Renison University College, University of Waterloo. He is a Theatre of the Oppressed practitioner who works across cultures to highlight and facilitate discourse and interchange through his work. His projects in Applied Theatre have been employed in workshops throughout Canada, USA, Argentina, and Iraq. He has worked with women artists, students, and refugees, utilizing Theatre of the Oppressed techniques to address human rights issues. Among his plays are: Waiting for Gilgamesh: Scenes from Iraq, Stuck, The Mug, and The Widow. Al-Azraki is the author of The Discourse of War in Contemporary Theatre (in Arabic), co-editor and co-translator of Contemporary Plays from Iraq, and co-editor and co-translator of several published poems by Arab female poets.

Rehearsing for Transformation: Theatre of the Oppressed, Pedagogy, and Human Rights

Introduction

Lynn Kapitan, Ruth Mandel, Ali Mahdawi, Ali Mahdawi of Organizer, Orsolya, Julian and Ivanka, Lisa Wolfe