

Report Mobility nr 2 / New life for traditional stories

Romania, Codlea (23-27.03.13)

Hosting organization A.C.T.O.R.

– Cultural Association For Theatre and Origami in Romania

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Here, There,



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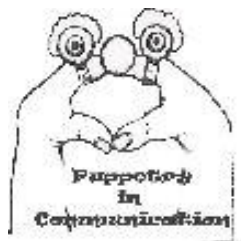
On the 23rd of March 21 participants from Estonia, Portugal, Finland, France, Denmark and Italy arrived to Bucharest and after that we travel to Codlea.

Together with the two Romanian participants (teachers from Codlea) they formed a team of 23, plus the two people in the staff. For their activities they were hosted by the theoretical high-school, by the Magura complex and by kindergarten number 1 of Codlea.

The activities have gone according to the initial agenda of the course. The course's objectives were ambitious if we only think about the duration it had, therefore, one of the used methods was shadow theatre in national groups. A very important argument towards this decision was that because of the complex connections the organizations have established between them inside the Drums for Peace Network.

The goal of the first session, hosted in the high-school's informatics laboratory, was to understand the theme of the project – traditional stories. It was very interesting to notice how for each and every culture, the meaning of those words differed; sometimes they even had opposite meanings. The importance of the session was given by the fact that it helped us reflect on some social, economical and intercultural issues, and to accept that each of us will follow the path in which we believed in. This experience helped the participants know about the realities from the countries of the other team-members. The chosen stories were, once more, researched on the internet so that the participants were assured they made the right choice.





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Exercises for the participants to make their stories without words followed. The second part of the day was centered on the presentation of shadow theatre techniques. The second day, each national group received the necessary instruments for experimenting the making of the story as a shadow theatre performance starting from the traditional story already selected. This was the most intense of the days, the course being extended until after dinner. In the end, after passing through all the performances, the learning process was based on the comments, observations and critics the participant spectators. Every performance received feedback which led to the reinterpretation and remodeling of the main story.

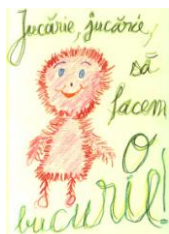
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The next day, our nervous participants held their performances in front of ~100 children (between 3-6 years old). Because of the word-less performances, the Romanian children were encouraged to explain their understanding of the play. This last exercise was meant to evaluate the creative efforts from the previous day

was seen as being very benefic in the learning process of our course.

After lunch, at the evaluation session in which the forms were filled-in a free debate followed about the whole experience. Four major conclusions were drawn

1. the innovative, peer-to-peer, creative pedagogical methods were appreciated and inspired our participants
2. The participants felt the lack of time as a burden, but have realized how much they have learnt from each other in all they have done
3. The Italian team emphasized that the stories told only through visual language, without words, only onomatopoeically, reduce the complex understanding of the chosen traditional stories. This observation awed us all about the communication barriers at a cultural and an esthetical level.



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- 4. Some of the participants will try to develop inside of their organization or in their professional lives some shadow theatre experiments.



On 27.03.13 we came back to Bucharest. Some participants decide to enjoy Romanian culture more few days, but others travel back home from the airport.

The course offers also many nice moments – a great intercultural night (unforgettable☺), visit to Bran Castle, and beautiful and warm

moments between old and new great Drums for Peace friends.

Report made by Eugenia BARBU
4.04.13/ Bucharest

PS : Thank you for all your positive feed-backs ☺

