

Theatre for Inclusion

*Inclusion is not just a
program, policy, or idea...
Inclusion is a mindset, it's a
way of life.*

Robin Bennet



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Mirror mirror on the Wall

Integration of theater/drama in education



“Encouraging creativity and cultivating fantasy is one of the most neglected aspects of raising our children. We stuff them like turkeys with knowledge and information while letting their imagination starve. They learn to serve reality, and they should learn to overcome it. Given the crucial role of imagination in creativity and innovation, the negative impact on society is enormous.”

Eugenios Trivizas

<http://www.philenews.com/el-gr/politismos-anthropoi/389/233515/evgenios-trivizas-an-thelete-ta-paidia-na-einai-effyi-diavazete-tous-paramythia>

Theatre - Definition

- Theatre is the direct experience that is shared when people imagine, believe and act as if they were other than themselves in some other place, in another time.
- It encompasses all forms of creative and imitative behavior, from the loose and spontaneous imaginative play of children through the more formal experience of the play performed by actors for an audience.



Theatre Conventions/techniques - Definition



- Theatre conventions are indicators of the way in which time, space and presence can interact and be imaginatively shaped to create meanings.
- They enable students to make, explore, and communicate meaning, as a part of a dynamic process.

Neelands and Goode, 2000

Theatre for inclusion



- Theater is a powerful medium, engaging audiences in complex, human experiences. Is a process of interpretation of human behavior and meanings as well for their expression. It responds to a basic human need to symbolize the world through art-forms.
- It's a right and prerogative of all people, enabling them to maximize the culture of their race, class, gender, age or ability. (Neelands and Goode, 2000)
- Research shows that theater increases students' tolerance and their ability to recognize what others are thinking and feeling.

Theatre for inclusion

Through theater we can build a learning community based on an inclusive and cooperative culture where:

- All people have value
- The contributions of each person are necessary for the group
- Nobody knows everything, everyone knows something



Interactive theatre can...

- Improve relationships
- Encourage greater participation
- Increase confidence and enjoyment
- Achieve motivation and ability to speak out - Improve speaking (language) and listening skills
- Improve the emotional health and wellbeing of children
- Raise awareness and develop strategies for dealing with various issues, such as violence, bullying etc.
- Increase resilience and reduce stress



How can we intergrade theater in education

- As an improvised workshop, a subject in the curriculum (once a week/month)
- As an educational tool, an active exploration of a text and its meanings
- As a participatory workshop for other students (for approaching various thematic units such as friendship, racism, diversity, social relationships, etc.)



Theatre/drama games

Theatre/drama games are an important part of any drama curriculum because they can teach valuable theatre skills while allowing students to have fun, build confidence, stretch their imagination and grow as an ensemble.



Theatre Games



When children take part in a theatre game they use their great abstraction ability. They articulate words and sentences quite different from those that they do mainly in the classroom at the time of the lesson or in their everyday life. Using spoken language, they improve their listening ability, they increase the focus of attention and they improve their language skills at a time when our language culture suffers. The theatre game becomes the first initiation of the child in the art of theater.

(Kouretzis and Parzakoni, 2012)

Theatre games of Getting to know each other - Breaking the ice

- Say my name with a bow
- Name and attribute (I'm good at ..., I like ...)
- Say my name in different ways
- Name gesture
- I present my friend
- What I like about you
- Find who's missing
- The hat



Theatre Games for imagination, improvisation, spontaneity, teamwork, attention, confidence, energy, communication, language skills, warm-up, fun!



2 Truths, 1 lie

Follow the leader/Yes, let's

The magic wand, Mirror

The fruit salad

The energy circle

Shazzam! (giants, knights, wizards)

The circle story

Whoozit

Pass the emotion

Freeze Tag

Zip Zap Zop

5 things

Structuring drama lesson in school



- Choice of subject or topic according to pupils' age, team's dynamics, experiences, talents, abilities, needs, cultural background
- Aim and Focus
- Choice of stimulus (fairy tale, poem, song, movie, myth, real story, painting, photo...)
- Creation of the core of the story and the dramatic context: events, place, time, roles and action
- Choice of roles and viewing angle
- Structure of drama in parts (episodes) and selection of conventions/techniques



3 stages in drama lesson

1. The creation

- something is created individually or in groups

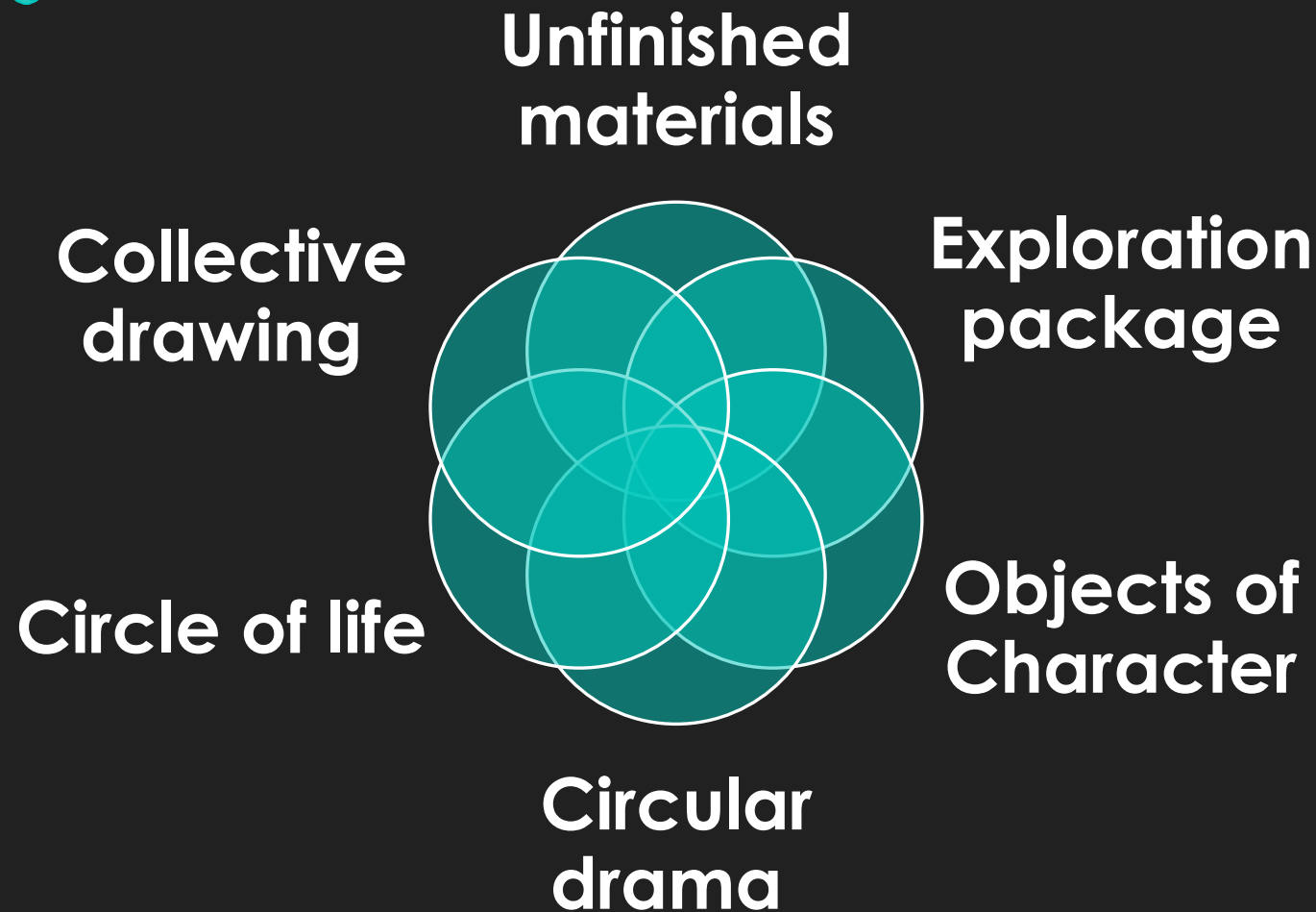
2. The presentation, performance

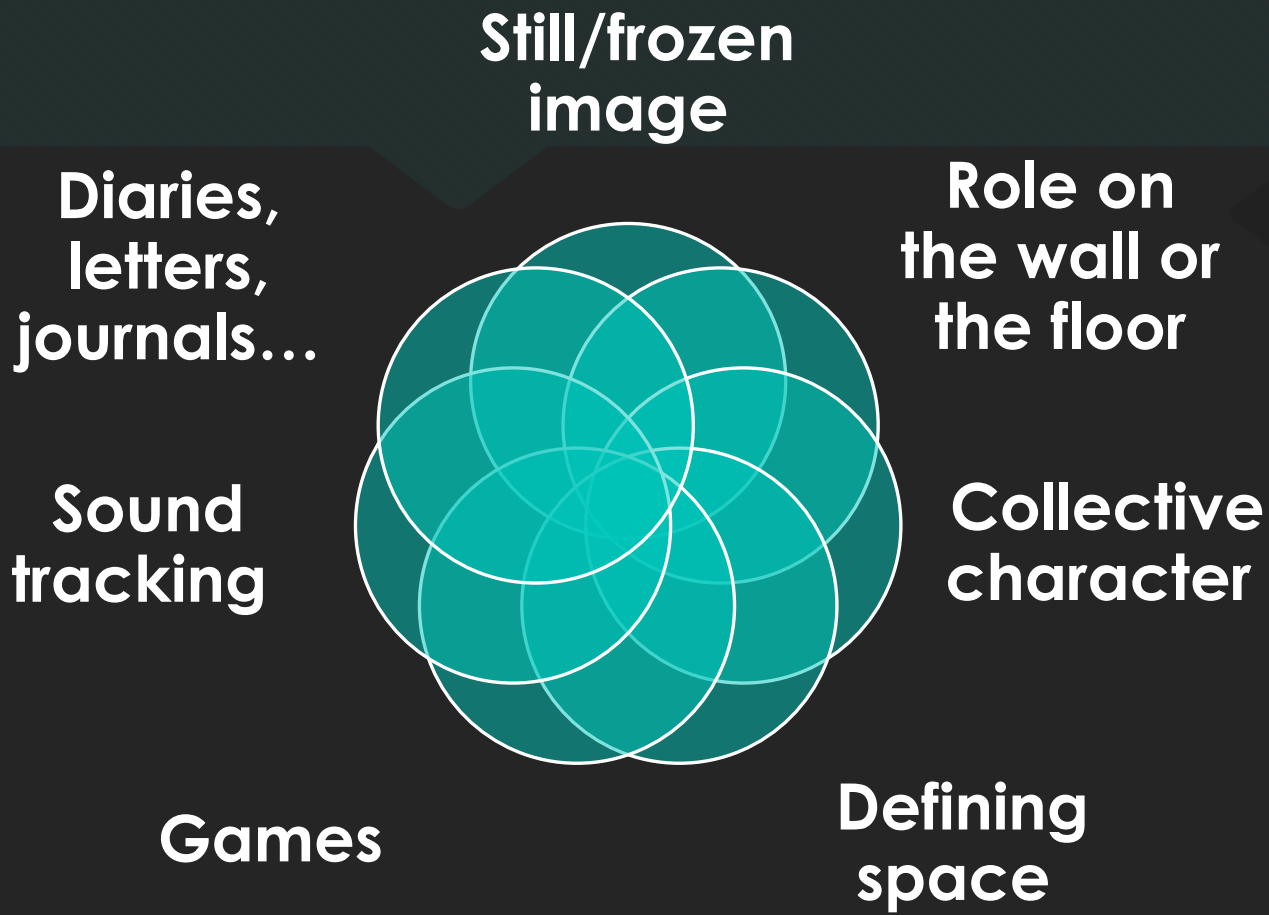
- creation is presented to the group

3. The review

- comments, feedback and re-enactment

Conventions for context-building action (set the scene: roles, events, time, space)





Conventions for narrative action (emphasize important events of the story)



- A day in the life
- Hot-seating
- Corridor of Consciousness
- Mantle of the expert
- Phrases in the circle
- Take a seat
- Interviews/Interrogations

Conventions for Poetic action (emphasize or create meanings through the use of language and gesture)

- Forum Theater – Theatre of the oppressed
- Behind the scene
- Creating new scenes
- Rituals and ceremonies
- Mime/pantomime
- Flashback to the past and projection in the future



Conventions of reflective action (emphasize inner thinking, allow groups to review the drama)

Detecting the thought of the role
(Thought-tracking)

Group sculpture

If I was you...

Writing texts/Creative writing (calendar,
letter, article titles, poem...)

Discussion in the circle



THE END

Thank you!