Everyone has a Story

What is Playback Theatre?
Content

• Meaning of a Name - Playback Theatre (PT)
• Facts about Playback Theatre
• Playback Theatre based on…
• Organization of PT Performance - Stage
• Essential skills areas for PT
• Playback Theatre in social context. Examples
• Why do we need Playback Theatre for community?
• Links: what to read and to watch?
• Questions and Reflections
We play the story back to you

The first Playback-company — «Hudson river»
Facts about Playback Theatre

• Was founded in USA by the couple - Jonathan Fox and Jo Salas
• First performance was in NY in 1975
• Education – Center of Playback Theatre (New York) and 11 affiliated schools all over the world
• Events - International Playback Theatre Network
• PT works a lot with social issues as well as with business
• There are PT-performances, workshops, seminars, Festivals, conferences etc in different countries
• Now PT exist in 65 countries
• There are no PT-companies in Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan ☺ YET!
Playback Theater based on...

Psychology * Social Psychology

Theatre * ART

• Social rituals
• Entertainment
• Common action, interaction
How do PT-performances work?

• Usually performance has a topic, but…
• …. “red line” of performance (what it was about) we can know just after performance because…
• …PT is improvisation, we never know what kind of stories will be
• Conductor communicate with audience
• People from audience raise their hands and are invited on a stage to tell story one after another
• Actors act just PERSONAL stories of concrete teller (not story of friend, joke, fairytale, “cow”…)
• Sometimes we don’t play a story if it is not needed
• There are more than 200 form for acting stories. But each PT-company usually uses 10-15
Organization of PT Performance Stage

Actors sitting on boxes or chairs

Cloth tree
Teller's chair
Conductor's chair

Acting area

Musician

..........AUDIENCE..........
ESSENTIAL SKILL AREAS FOR PLAYBACK

Art
- Sense of Aesthetics
- Expressiveness
- Originality
- Versatility
- Teamwork
- Story language

Social Interaction
- Event Management
- Safe atmosphere
- Psychological knowledge
- Inclusivity
- Awareness of social issues
- Explanatory language

Ritual
- Keeping to rules
- Ecstatic emotion
- Transpersonal dimension
- Goal of transformation
- Spellbinding language

Zone of good playback theatre
Playback Theatre in social context

- Work for/with people affected by military conflict, refugees, Internal Displaced People (IDP)
  - Freedom bus: community visits, live music, workshops, performances, educational talks (Palestine)
  - Performances and workshops in Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Ukraine, Russia, Afghanistan, Israel... for soldiers, families, children
• Inclusion, working with minorities, isolated groups into society
  – Cast System, untouchable=Dalit (India)
  – Festival ART-Playback. Together: national and ethnics communities, LGBTI, IDPs, people leaving with disabilities (Ukraine)
  – Work with people leaving with disabilities (a lot of countries)
  – Homeless (Hong Kong) …
• **Playback as a healing of collective trauma**
  – After natural disasters (USA – New Orleans – Hurricane Katrina, Hungary - mud-slide disaster)
  – War conflict
  – Collective accident (Russia – explosion in metro, fire in mall, Bangladesh - bus accident)
  – Domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual abuse, sexual trafficking of women, the raping of women
  – Genocide, holocaust (India, Israel, Ukraine, Germany, Bosnia…)}
• Other important social issues
  – Anti-bulling
  – Ecology
  – Work on different addictions
  – With people who has strong illness and their families
  – Work in prisons, rehabilitation centers etc
Why do we need PLAYBACK-THEATRE for community?
• Everyone story\life\experience is important
• Makes people visible
• Makes community stronger
• Invite and act any topic which important for community
• Safes identity and supports diversity
• Help to see social\politic level in personal story
What to read and to watch?

- **Everyone Has a Story, by Jo Salas (TDX)** - video
- **Living with Trauma, Living with Playback**
- **Playback Theatre and School Bullying by Jo Salas**
- **Inclusion. Topic of the Festival “Art-Playback. Together”** – video

http://www.playbackcentre.org

https://www.iptn.info/
Questions and Reflections
Contact me

Nataliia Vainilovych (Fb)
+38 093 047 71 19
nalina.vaine@gmail.com