Theatre of the Oppressed

a presentation by
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1. Let's get to know something new!
Basics about TO
a) General Information
b) Forms and methods
c) TO as a movement

2. Let's try something new!
Exercise

3. Let's discuss it!
TO for social work
Basics about TO

a) General Information

- Augusto Boal, theatre practitioner, elaborated TO in 1971 in Brazil
- Started working with street children, peasants, workers and other oppressed people
- Technique to promotion social and political change
- Theatre as a method to end oppression
Basics about TO
b) Forms and methods

[Image of the Theatre of the Oppressed tree diagram]
Basics about TO
b) Forms and methods

Newspaper Theatre:

- Beginning of TO
- Audience can produce
- Making a theatrical scene using a piece of news from a newspaper, or from any other written material
Basics about TO
b) Forms and methods

FORUM Theatre

"...presents a scene or a play that must necessarily show a situation of oppression that the Protagonist does not know how to fight against, and fails. The spect-actors are invited to replace this Protagonist, and act out - on stage and not from the audience - all possible solutions, ideas, strategies. The other actors improvise the reactions of their characters facing each new intervention, so as to allow a sincere analysis of the real possibilities of using those suggestions in real life. All spect-actors have the same right to intervene and play their ideas. FORUM-THEATRE is a collective rehearsal for reality. " Boal, 2004

- Invented in 1973 in Peru
- Audience becomes "spect-actors"
Basics about TO

b) Forms and methods

Invisible Theatre

- Scence of oppression in public space
- Attempt to let it look like a real event
- Developed in Argentina in the 70s

Image Theatre

- Developed for dialogue between Indigenous Nations and Spanish descendents in Latin America
- "Don't tell, show!"

- More methods are Legislative Theatre, Rainbow of Desire...
Basics about TO

c) TO as a movement
Basics about TO

c) TO as a movement

- Fast spreading of TO all around the world
- More than 70 Forum Theatre Groups
- Largest single organisation is Jana Sanskriti in India (over 40,000 members, more than 30 groups)
- Most TO groups in Germany are situated in Berlin
- TO used as a method by many theatre/social/educational/therapy practitioners in Germany
Basics about TO  
c) TO as a movement

Online...

http://ptoweb.org/
http://www.tdu-wien.at/projekte.html
http://www.melanchthon-akademie.de/programm/7/kunst-literatur-theater-musik/12353/forumtheater-dreiteilige-fortbildung/
http://www.theaterderunterdrueckten.de/
Basics about TO

c) TO as a movement

- TO in different fields: Theatre Pedagogy, NGOs, Social Work, education...

- International Theatre of the Oppressed Organisation

- Professional dialogue and research in various workshops, national and international conferences
Let's try something new!

Excercise

ALL WORK AND NO PLAY IS TOTALLY MISSING THE POINT.
Let's discuss it!
TO for Social Work
Sources


International Theater of the Oppressed Organisation: www.theatreoftheoppressed.org (last access on Dec. 9th 2014)

Theater der Unterdrückten Wien: http://www.tdu-wien.at/tdu.html (last accessed on Dec. 9th 2014)