

Theatre of the Oppressed



a presentation by
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Content

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!

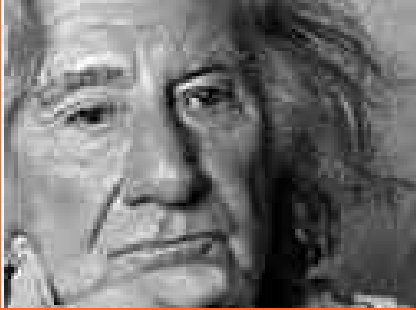
Excercise

3. Let's discuss it!

TO for social work

Basics about TO

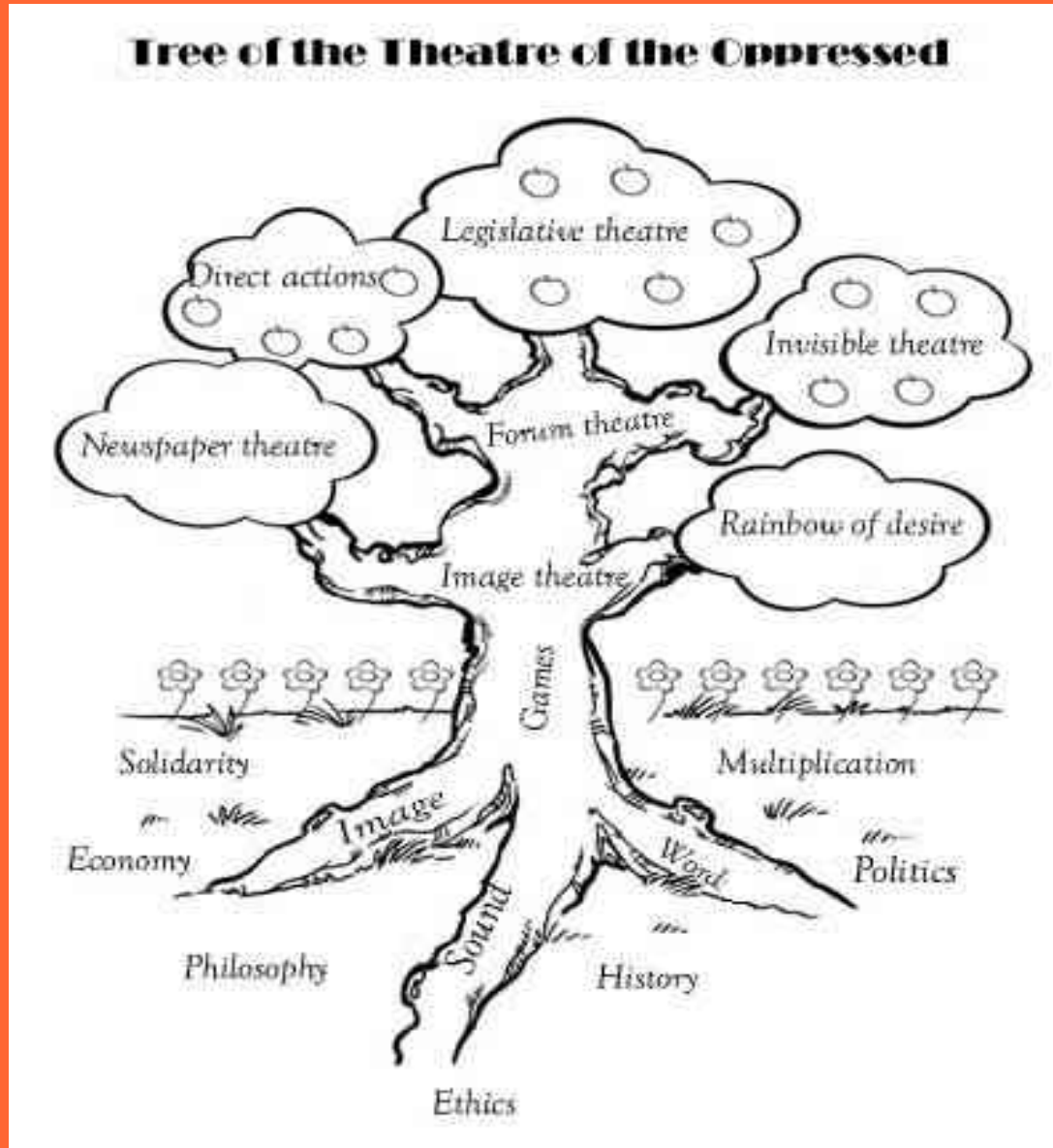
a) General Information



- 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



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

Image Theatre

- Developed for dialogue between Indegenious Nations and Spanish descenders 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://www.theatreoftheoppressed.org/en/index.php?nodeID=2>

<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



Let's discuss it!

TO for Social Work



Sources

Fritz, Birgit (2011): InExActArt - Das autopoietische Theater Augusto Boals - Ein Handbuch zur Praxis des Theaters der Unterdrückten. München: Ibidem.

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

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