

Theater and education: Using Collaborative Creation Techniques to teach Migrant Farm workers about Health Issues.

"Every art contributes to the greatest art of all, the art of living."

Bertolt Brecht

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I. Brief theoretical foundation.

A.- The Influence of Bertolt Brecht and "Epic" Theater.

* To narrate or tell or report as oppose to show something as "happening for the first time"

* No "emotional" involvement in the action, desires an openly critical spectator.

* Actors and audience should always be aware that theater is representation and NOT reality.

B.- The Tradition in Latin America.

* Collaborative Creation. (Creación Colectiva) Approach to theater (experimental) where the director keeps a low profile or participates just as another member of the ensemble. It might refer only to the staging of an existing play or to the research process leading to the creation of a new "text."

Colombia: Santiago Garcia, Teatro Tec.
Enrique Buenaventura,
Teatro Experimental de Cali.

* Farm workers Theater.

Cuba: Escambray.

* The "Poetics of the Oppressed"

Brazil: Augusto Boal.

C.- Viola Spolin

Resource ID#: 4007

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II. Creating a Play with the Farm workers.

A.- Opening Ground:

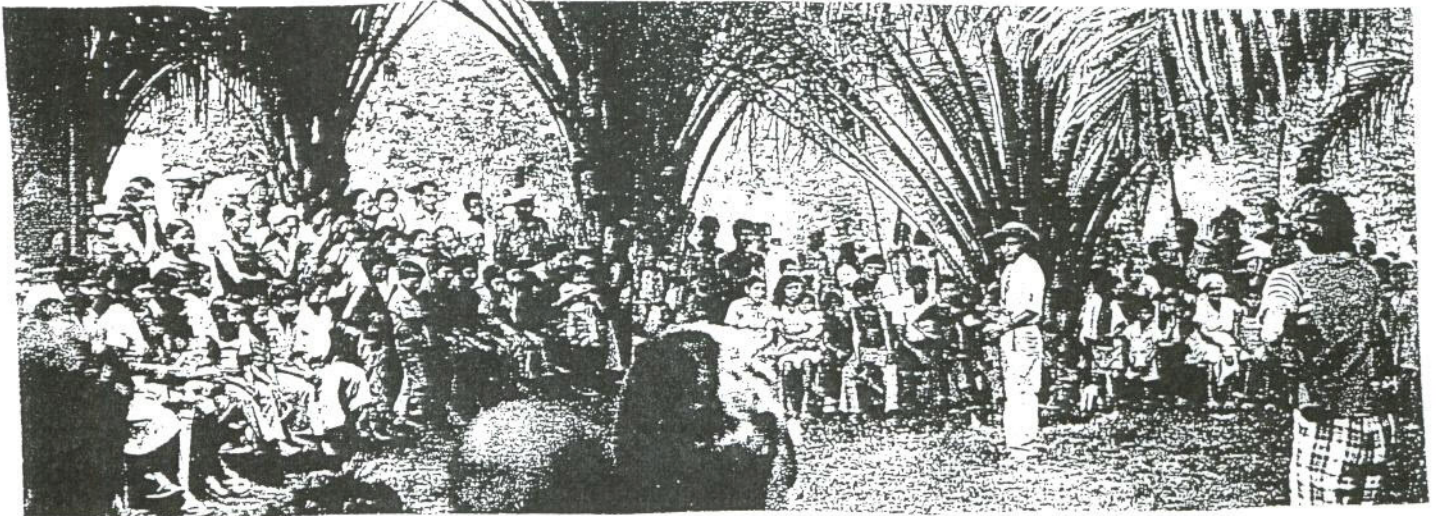
- * Stages for the transformation of an spectator into an actor (Boal):
 - * Knowing the body.
 - * Making the body expressive.
 - * Practicing theater as "living" and "present."
- * "Ice Braking" and "warming" exercises.
- * Sensorial alert.

B.- Improvisation:

- * Improvisation with specific characters (real people, professions, people from the street)
- * Improvisation with "given circumstances." (T.V., Newspaper, places, phrases.)
- * Improvisation using sound. (Double scenes, double dialogues, silence, gibberish.)
- * Improvisation utilizing the body. (Actions, physical characters, use of props and objects, imaginary objects, animals.)
- * Improvisation utilizing the space. (places, costumes, etc.)

C.- Special techniques:

- * Image Theater (sculptures, moving sculptures, movies)
- * Simultaneous play writing.
- * Forum Theater.
- * Newspaper Theater.
- * Photo-Romance / Comics Theater.
- * Breaking of Oppression.
- * Myth Theater.
- * Trial or Analytical Theater.
- * Masks and Rituals.



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III. Creating a Play for the Farm workers.

* Research and team play writing.

With an existing text:

- Analysis: dramatic conflict, conflicting forces, theme and message.

Creating a text:

- Define the "problem."
- Identify time, place, characters, etc.
- Research on "state of affairs" and previous "work"
- Field research (individual or by teams).
- Sharing information.
- Define message.

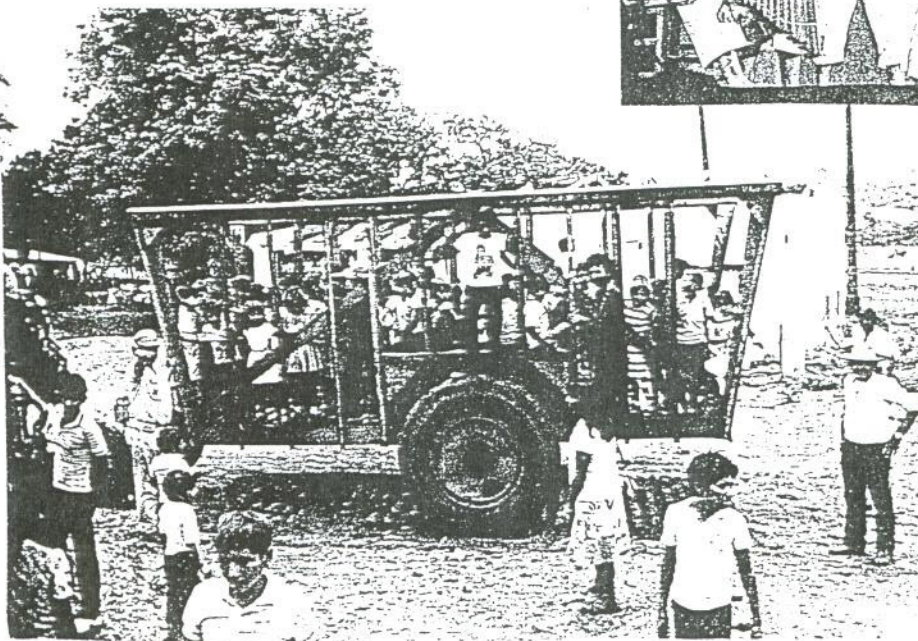
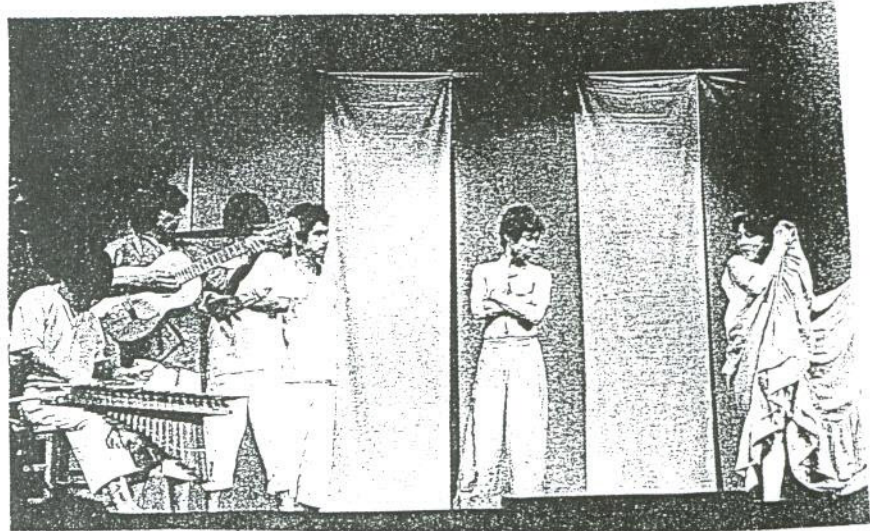
* Developing actions and conflict.

With an existing text:

- Identify "actions" and "situations" defining the conflict. Improvise.

Creating a text:

- Improvisation based on material found.



Some Additional Resources for Theatre Games and Improvisation

Barker, Clive. Theatre Games. A new Approach to Drama Training. London: Eyre Methuen Ltd., 1977.

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Booth, D. and C.J. Lundy. Improvisation. Toronto: Harcourt Brace and Company, 1985.

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Spolin, Viola. Improvisation for the Theatre. A Handbook of Teaching and Directing Techniques. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1963.

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Stanley, Susan. Drama without Script. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1980.

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