



NEWSLETTER 017 · APR 2011

YOUTH THEATRE INNOVATING THROUGH SYNERGY

Act Out is currently working on a Youth Forum Theatre Peer Education Project funded through Community Arts Network WA's innovation grant.

The Fremantle-based project combines Forum Theatre and Youth Peer Education on issues affecting young people.

7 young people are being guided and mentored to create a play that they will perform to their peers and their community at four different venues: two high schools in the Cockburn and Fremantle areas, Katanning Senior High School and a public performance at Kulcha, a multicultural arts venue.



Exploring the issues of peer pressure, relationships and respect from their perspective offers the participants a chance to contribute towards building awareness around issues. It is a capacity, confidence and resilience building event that will promote the use of theatre in tackling tough and persistent issues. Further, it is also a non-judgmental medium for creativity and self-expression.

At the same time it is a rare opportunity for the community to listen to young people and alter their perceptions about the capacity of young people to take leadership and ownership of issues affecting them and their communities.

ACT OUT NEWS

Family Pathways Conference – Mental Health and the Family Law System...Joining the Dots May 9 Geraldton & May 11 – 12 Perth

Once again this promises to be a dynamic forum for a closer look at the service provision in the Family Law System.

Presenters include:

Megan Hunter MBA - High Conflict Institute, San Diego, US
Professor Bryan Rodgers – Australian National University
Professor George Lipton – University of Western Australia
Professor Robyn Carroll – University of Western Australia
Dr Marika Guggisberg – Curtin University
Tasha Broomfield – Blooming Minds Consultancy
Erika Jacobson – Act Out – Theatre for Transformation
Evie Molson – OneLife

Erika and Evie will be presenting a joint interactive session exploring **Suicide Prevention and the Family Law System** at the Perth event.

Erika will also be running two sessions at the Geraldton Conference on **Creative Approaches to Working Together in The Family Law System**

For more information contact Michelle Rowe
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Act Out is also excited about fostering the use of forum theatre and creative arts-based practices in synergy with community development approaches to engage and generate discussion and ideas that raise awareness about issues and possible solutions.

The sessions so far have aimed at familiarising participants with the various tools and techniques for expressing and communicating. They have also been getting to know each other and bonding so that they can work together in a safe and open environment.

In addition, participants are being mentored in filming and editing, blog design and social media, photography, stage management and marketing and promotion – in effect they are learning other skills that are involved in producing community theatre.



A number of WA artists, including playwright David Milroy are contributing to the production – a public event will be held at KULCHA on 30 June @ 6pm. Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the door.

We are also grateful to the Cockburn Youth Centre and the Hilton PCYC for the use of their space.

INNOVATION – WHAT DRIVES IT?

Alberto Perez, affectionately known as Beto, was a popular aerobics instructor in Colombia, who rocked up to his busy class one day only to find that he had forgotten his music. Thinking on the spot he went to his car and retrieved the sexy Latin music he had in his CD player and adapted the routines to the hot Salsa, Cumbia and Merenge rhythms.

The result: ZUMBA – a multi-million dollar enterprise that over the last ten years has spread across all continents and has revitalised the fitness class industry.



Innovators are not always the white-coated, single-minded scientists supported by funding bodies to create breakthroughs in their various fields.

Sometimes innovation happens through a totally unplanned, unforeseen and 'in-the-moment' connection of a product or idea that is waiting to manifest and a mind that is open and receptive.

Sometimes, the innovation is not even related to the field the innovator is active in and it is fuelled by dissatisfaction and accident.

Take Chester Carlson. Who gave us the Xerox machine. From a young age he was fascinated by all things printed; however he studied physics and later patent law. During his legal studies he grew impatient with hand copying the documents he needed so he turned to his earlier passion and after many experiments and trials he invented the photocopier.

Likewise, sculptor Ladislao Biro is less remembered for his sculptures than for the creation of the ball point pen; J.B. Dunlop the creator of the pneumatic tyre was a vet.

However, while there will always be the Edisons and the Zuckerbergs, innovation is **largely** a focused, encouraged and nurtured effort within or without an organisation.

Our inspiring friends at **New & Improved**, a leading innovation consultancy company in the US, write a regular newsletter on innovation.

According to them there are **10 main drivers of innovation** in an organisation – I have summarised them here:

1. **Individual** – they are the basic building block of innovation;
2. **Team** – individuals do not usually have the range of skills needed to make innovation happen;
3. **The enterprise** – to keep innovation teams from getting stuck in 'this is the way we've always done it' thinking;
4. **Processes** – always aim to improve these at all levels: individual, team and enterprise;
5. **Offering** – to view innovation as more than 'product'. Equally important are innovative business models, alliances, processes;
6. **Psychological climate** – what's going on in the mind of the individual?
7. **Physical environment** – everyone has different needs around this, and it has a huge impact on innovation;
8. **Organisational culture** – what does the leadership of the organisation uphold as success? This matters;
9. **Economic climate** – not too much fear and not too much confidence – this is the ideal balance for thriving innovation;
10. **Geopolitical culture** – what cultural strengths can I leverage and which cultural weaknesses do I need to overcome?

For the full article and many more GREAT tips go to <http://www.newandimproved.com/newsletter/2125.php>

BLOWING OUR TRUMPET!

...Erika, this was probably the first time for many years that most of us had the opportunity to laugh until we ached since we were children. The basic exercises and left brain/right brain activities that you facilitated were amazingly simple but very effective and I know on a personal level I had the best time and have already adapted some of the workshops I present to include a lot of the stuff I have learn in the last week.

If these concepts and exercises work as well with the groups that I present to I will look forward to a huge improvement in the participation levels of the groups. I am looking forward to testing out the theories and exercises. Thank you Erika it was great!

Glenise Ullrich
Community Educator
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**THANK YOU
FOR THE
FEEDBACK!**



Act Out – Theatre for Transformation

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