

DOROTHY HEATHCOTE - NOTES ON DRAMA

Drama in Education does not involve these things:

1. A play or a story for acting out;
2. Preparing for something to happen in the future;
3. Lots of people;
4. Choosing or being chosen;
5. Explaining a story;
6. Having a 'setting' or 'pretending to be' in order to show others - illusion;
7. Dressing in costumes;
8. Being somebody else and behaving like them;
9. Practising for the night.

What then does it involve?

1. **People are necessary:** because Drama is about exploring how people get sense out of social encounters;
2. **Using what people know:** about behaving in public encounters and about feelings and responses in and to events;
3. **Making situations deliberately happen:** inventing worlds (like playing in young children), to control and have some problems to solve in a sort of 'NO PENALTY' area;
4. **Agreeing that anyone can bring in ideas:** in created worlds there isn't 'correct' and 'incorrect' - there's trial and error and testing ideas out;
5. **Everybody stays themselves in their head:** using their knowledge, talk, thinking capacity, to sort out 'these others' we're trying to understand and make happen by what we do and how we behave;
6. **There is- an agreement to 'contract in' to these made situations:** we know they're not really true but truthful to how we think things could be;
7. **There's not a story so much as an episode:** in which possibilities can emerge;
8. **These episodes are very focused to serve the needs of the participants:** talking, responding, thinking, using previous experience, consulting, finding out by doing, trial and error, considering, etc. etc.