DRAMA HIVES: DRAMA THERAPY AS PUBLIC PRACTICE

INSTITUT FÜR THEATERTHERAPIE RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM MAY 16, 2024

CASSANDRA BRENNAN & ROWENA TAM

AGENDA

INTRO

- Drama Hives Project
- Public practice drama therapy

SUMMARY

- Theoretical approaches: decolonization, liberation psychology, third spaces etc
- Applying Public Practice Framework to Drama Therapy

DEBRIEF

• Q&A

PROJECT CONTEXT

- Grant from the J.A. De Sève Foundation and the Art Hives network
- Master's research built on this experience





Drama Hive

What is a costume? Is it something we wea and play with this month's theme

Tues. Oct 23rd from 5-7pm

> Concordia Art Hive EV 5.777

Drama Hive

Create your own tiny universe at the Drama Hive Supplies will be provided to explore, play and ransform everyday items into extraordinary worlds.

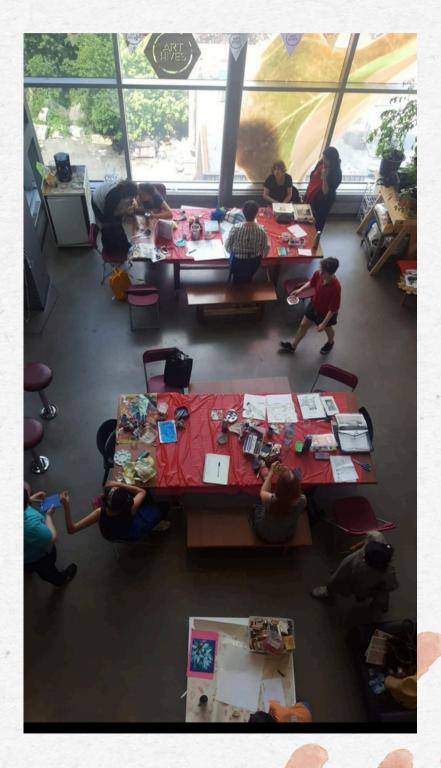
Miniature Worlds Tuesday Jan 29, 4pm - 6pm Concordia Art Hive EV 5.777

PROJECT CONTEXT











the drama hive

CASSANDRA BRENNAN

WHAT IS PUBLIC PRACTICE DRAMA THERAPY IN NORTH AMERICA?



WHAT IS PUBLIC PRACTICE DRAMA THERAPY?

- Departs from traditional spaces where therapy is offered (such as clinics, hospitals and agency offices)
- Positions itself within the community in public spaces like libraries, schools, parks
- Promotes accessibility
- Creates a sense of belonging
- Informed by decolonization, liberation psychology, third spaces, public practice art therapy, the Art Hive model, and existing public practice drama therapy approaches



THEORETICAL APPROACHES EXPLORED

Decolonization

Liberation Psychology

Third Space

APPLYING PUBLIC PRACTICE FRAMEWORK TO DRAMA THERAPY

Approaches that engage participant-facilitator interaction:

- Theatre of the Oppressed
- Brechtian Drama Therapy
- Miss Kendra Program
- Developmental Transformations (DvT)
- The Drama Hive / The Story Hive

LIMITATIONS

Lack of implementation of:

More fieldwork and exploration are required to create working templates for varied Drama Hives

 Principles of disability justice Mutual aid Land-based healing • The Seven Generation Principles Public performance/ community arts



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DRAMA THERAPISTS

- Frame social justice calls-to-action in one's practice
- Engage in decolonial work
- Personal and professional accountability in social justice and accessible approaches
- Pay homage to Indigenous and pre-colonial praxis and interventions by acknowledging how drama therapy emerged from these theories
- Be cognizant to one's colonizer/settler/immigrant narratives
- Experiment with public practice (i.e., outdoors or drop-in spaces)

WHAT WE'VE HEARD FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN DRAMA THERAPY COMMUNITY:

- Lack of access to public practice
- Create a sense of permission
- How do you measure work in public practice?
- Is this a form of solidarity or mutual aid?
- Professionalism is a colonial construct
- How do we not reproduce in the same colonizing dynamics, as we move into a new space for liberation without colonizing third spaces
- Tip Jar How do you fund it? Would this "ruin" the element of a Drama Hive?



FIND OUT MORE AT:

- Our Drama Therapy Review Vol 8.2 Article: • Exploring Public Practice Drama Therapy Using Drama Hives • Available through the NADTA's DTR online access portal
- Art Hives Instagram: @art.hives.hq.concordia • Website: https://arthives.org/ https://arthives.org/drama-hive



LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

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Thank You!

QUESTIONS?

