

How to

Improvisational theatre workshop

“Kulturbuddys” project by youngcaritas Berlin

Description

“Kulturbuddys” is a group of refugees and non-refugees between 18-30 years of age that meets every other week for cultural excursions and other events in and around Berlin. Its goal is to encourage young volunteers to support the integration and participation of new Berliners.

Ingredients

1. What is needed in terms of organisational capacities?

In order to prepare an improv-theatre workshop you first need a (professional) drama/theatre-teacher who has the know-how to realize a workshop for a group of 20 participants, a large empty room with enough space to move around, a group of volunteers with different cultural backgrounds, speakers for music, some snacks and drinks for the participants

2. What is needed in terms of funds?

Around 150 – 300 € depending on the professional fee of the drama teacher, 25 € for snacks and drinks (juice, water, some fruits and nuts), rent for the room (the price probably varies from place to place)

3. What is needed in terms of specific tools for encounter

Participants just need to be interested in playing theatre and then it develops by itself with the active doing and of course with the exercises the drama-teacher prepares. They won't need pre-knowledge in acting.

Preparation

1. Time needed to prepare it

3-4 months: for scheduling the room and the drama-teacher (maybe a meeting to clarify the idea)

2 weeks: to send out the invitations to the participants

3 days: sending out a reminder email

2 hours before: grocery shopping and preparing the room (fresh air, clearing the room from furniture, preparing music, checking if the drama-teacher has everything he/she needs, etc.)

2. Time needed to archive/appreciate first results

If the participants are open for playing theatre you'll get the results right away! Throughout the games the people will get in touch with each other, start to interact, laugh a lot and the best thing is: Language is not necessarily needed and people share an extraordinary experience

Directions

1. How you started and develop the activity

The “Kulturbuddys” project exists for about 1,5 years now. Since we have a young actress, stage director and drama-teacher in our group she came to us and proposed the idea of doing a workshop for the group. We've done this improv-theatre workshop twice already and both



times we saw how this encourages intercultural communication. It's a great chance to get to know each other and learn from each other.

2. How you succeeded to involve people in favour of migration and migrants

Since the project "Kulturbuddys" itself addresses young refugees and non-refugees we already had a pool of participants that we invited for the workshop.

3. How you empowered them

The empowerment should happen through the games and exercises the drama teacher choses for the workshop and the group.

4. How you succeeded to involve people in disfavour

The workshop is free for the people that are volunteering in the "Kulturbuddys" project. I guess sometimes participants just follow the invite without really knowing what to expect and once they are in the workshop they just dive into the experience.

Organiser's note

Prepare the drama-teacher that he/she has to work with people from different cultures and with different language backgrounds and levels.

3 to max. 4 hours including a few drinking/snack breaks is definitely enough, since people will be moving a lot and also have to be present with mind and body

Quotes from someone experiencing the activity

"Of course, the medium of theater plays different roles in every culture. Nevertheless, one commonality across all cultures is that theater reveals our humanity: regardless of your heritage, your linguistic background, the customs you practice or the social mores you observe, we all want to be understood, respected, and valued."

Didem Uca

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<http://www.youngcaritas.de/kulturbuddys>

<http://www.taten-wirken.de/voellig-zuhause/>

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