

Invitation to contribute to a text collection about Psychodrama Online

Title idea: “Possibilities and limitations of Psychodrama Online – a work-in-progress- report 2021”.

Description:

Amidst – and arising out of - the pandemic situation in 2020 the psychodramatic world had experienced an enormous extension: Everywhere in the world psychodramatists started to experiment with their method in the virtual room of the internet, based on video platforms which enable interpersonal interaction just-in-time¹.

No question: J.L. Moreno would have appreciated this new stage enthusiastically and would have been the first to explore it deeply. And that is what psychodramatists all over the world immediately started. Without the possibility to meet in vivo², the use of “Psychodrama Online”³ exploded.

Many of these newly exploring psychodramatist internet users celebrated their former unknown possibilities – very appropriate to their “natural” openness to everything new. Literally there seemed a new world to be discovered. In fact, this world had still existed but had not been recognized very much by the psychodramatic scene until (if the majority not somehow had smiled a bit about those few pioneers who had already worked on this before).

On the contrary, quite a group of psychodramatists stayed in the very different role of the critic or the hesitator, culminating in the quote of one of our members:

“This is absolutely no Psychodrama, this is something completely different!”

If we imagine these two positions as the ends of a line sociometry, we can imagine to choose our own spots somewhere on it. Where would you stand? What are your reasons? This sociometric question seems to be a very appropriate picture for the invitation to share and to open a dialogue.

Acknowledging the wholeness of positions we attempt to reflect deeper about the Online development of Psychodrama and to map key elements of its actual situation in the world, relating to one of the most known quotes of its founder:

“A truly therapeutic procedure cannot have less an objective than the whole of mankind.”

J.L. Moreno 1934

In the same moment our collection will hopefully represent a contribution to a humanization of the intruding virtual aspects of modern reality – thus the attempt to describe how people all over the world (have to? playfully?) expand their role variety alongside the hugely intensifying overlapping of their “real” and their “virtual” realities.

¹ One very early publication was shared in the internet by Pavel Kornienko.

² We will not use the word “reality” for life encounter because the so called “virtual reality” in fact long since had become a reality, or simply a part of the reality, too.

³ Some wording is in circulation. D. Simmons was the first to use the expression “Teledrama”, seemingly also as a brand (<http://www.teledrama.org>), another one is “Psychodrama Online” (V. Semenov, P. Kornienko). We decide for the last because it is as open as possible and widely used. Surely this needs to be discussed further.

Gerda Mävers and Manfred Jannicke as the first moderators of the 2019 newly elected International Committee of the Psychodrama Association for Europe e.V. will coordinate this project, collect the texts, sort them and give them a frame. If it becomes a surveyable amount of text, we plan to publish it, e.g. in the form of a newsletter or on a website. If it expands more, we can also imagine to realize a book project.

Invitation

We invite you cordially to send a text of at least 2 pages (open to more) with one or the other example / scene from your Psychodrama online work, which

- reflects about the profundity and depths of experience you had as the leader, a participant and/or as a group member
- stands for an element or technique of Psychodrama Online (or some of those) which is / are important for you as a psychodramatist (Leader, Stage, Protagonist, Surplus, Group, ...), (and/or)
- shows, that in Psychodrama Online something psychodramatic *is possible or better than in vivo / onsite*. It doesn't matter so much if you beforehand had considered it to be possible or not – but please also write about these expectations, (and/or)
- shows, that in Psychodrama Online something psychodramatic *is not possible or not so good*. Again, please also write about the expectations you had before.
- Feel free to share every other aspect or approach to the topic, let it be about your personal experience, a theoretical view,
- If your experiences are mixed, please describe as many aspects as you like.

With the word “Psychodrama” we mean all kinds of psychodramatic, sociodramatic and sociometric encounters and experiences in the broadest of possible meanings.

Please send your text preferably in English, if possible also in Russian and for sure in the language of your country. Please use one of the following text formats: *.txt, *.doc, *.docx, *.odt, *rtf . Don't send PDF, EPUB or HTML. Please use as little formatting as possible.

If you send a text / a fragment / something, please add the following paragraph:

“I give the permission to the Psychodrama Association for Europe e.V. to use my text product (in full length or in excerpts) to be published as a contribution to the publication “Possibilities and limitations of Psychodrama Online” in a newsletter, on a fitting website and/or in a book with this title. I do this for the benefit of the common good and will not make any financial demands against the editors or the Psychodrama Association for Europe e.V..”

(Signature)

If your contribution includes a picture / drawing / piece of art / graph / table of some sort, please make sure of the copyright by sending us an appropriate declaration.

Please send your text by the end of August 2021 to ic@psychodrama-for-europe.eu .

Please don't forget a short abstract about yourself, some information about you, your career, ... (main info, no advertisements please ☺, not more than 400 letters) plus a photo if you like.

So here is our wish to you: happy creation!