

Acting Break-Out Session – CATR Re-Imagining the Future Learn-In March 18th

Facilitators: Hope and Zhuohao

1. Introductions

- 5 participants plus 2 facilitators
 - Sherry - a recent student studying actor as source of reconciliation
 - Sasha – Centre for Indigenous Theatre, PhD, climate performance interest
 - Kim – University of Guelph, Theatre Studies; direct students who do performance creation, taught a course about land outdoors
 - Marti – Second year PhD at University of Kansas, from Iran, teaching acting and feeling eco-guilty particularly with all the paper waste in Department
 - Julia – from CGA

2. Examples Shared

- Zhuohao talked about sharing own ecological traditions, for example how water is viewed and represented
- Kim's class outdoors started by selecting a tree or plant, then getting consent from it to work together; audio walks, devising in space for site specific performance; students really enjoyed working outside and when they returned in another class to the outdoors they were so glad to be back outside
- Hope shared her use of "Lighting the Way" anthology from Climate Change Theatre Action for an acting class, bringing in Kendra Fanconi as a guest speaker, researching the material, and integrating sustainability by only using re-purposed props and costumes; however there was resistance from one older student who saw environmentalists as hippies and thought there were more important issues to address; he was cast as the naysayer and was therefore able to channel his views but also played other characters so that by the end he'd opened up his viewpoint

3. Syllabi Components

- Values/Principles:
 - include a climate acknowledgement as well as a land acknowledgement, sustainability statement, commitment
 - Need to connect with community outside of the campus
 - Room agreements with ecological frameworks and then how to do it
 - Included ecological traditions from other cultural backgrounds
- Content/Materials – request for plays to use:
 - 100 Plays to Save the World
 - What We Do For Love
 - Climate Change Theatre Action books - [Books – Climate Change Theatre Action](#)
- Course Activities
 - Work outside with Elders
 - Land tour with Indigenous organization to start off a class and situation students in the location

- Work outdoors, what do you see and what stories can you tell from this; ten minutes to record observations, writing and embodiment

4. Discussion

- Key is integration
- Resistance = how to counter or navigate this in students
- Also resistance as a cultural practice
- Integrate sustainability even if not topic of class and with other departments supporting the department productions, i.e. design and productions classes/faculty/students
- Imagination in performance

5. Next Steps

- Have a green rider now for designers, need one for actors, directors...
- We should all share resources, like examples of a sustainability statement or climate acknowledgement on course outlines