



## Questionnaire for theatre expert

Name	Raffaele Gentile
Occupation	Theatre director
Country of residence	Luxembourg

Please answer the following questions giving specific examples where possible:

### **Experience and Expertise**

Outline your experience and expertise in the area of theatre

I am a theatre actor and director.

I started at the age of 17(1967) and I continued, without interruption, in Italy and Luxembourg.

My teachers were mainly professional Italian actors and directors.

Furthermore I have worked with different radio and television stations; in particular I worked for RTL Luxembourg for 16 years.

In addition, I had some minor roles in films, I synchronized and I participated in documentaries.





What has been the impact of theatre on your own life?

Theatre had a big impact on my life since it helped me shape it in a positive way.

When I was young, I was very shy and full of doubts so that I have even been bullied by many.

However, acting helped me to get my confidence back and to feel better about myself.

What impact do you think theatre can have on our lives and what you consider to be its instrumental value (i.e. the way theatre can be used in particular settings rather than theatre as art or entertainment)?

Theatre for me is art and pleasure combined. It is an exceptional instrument to prepare young people to confront them with problems in their everyday lives but also to learn their language, culture, history and literature of the country they are living in. Also, it is a fundamental aspect to develop their education.



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What strategies do you use and how do you work with hard to reach groups or people who are not usually engaged with theatre or who might be reluctant to take part?

I am constantly working on new projects and I am very interested in working with young and inexperienced people.

At the beginning it is hard to work with young people because they usually feel insecure but after some time I notice that they feel more and more comfortable and even more confident.

Finally, one can see how they developed and that they are not afraid anymore to fully live the experience.

### **Theatre and Working with visually impaired people**

Describe any experience you have had of working with visually impaired people either with theatre or in some other capacity.

Unfortunately, I have not had the chance to work with visually impaired people. However, I believe that speech is a very important part of theatre. Moreover, I believe that great plays can be made by only using language and movement since these are some very important aspects

How was working with visually impaired people (if there was such work) different to the way you would normally work?

I have not worked with visually impaired people therefore I cannot say how it would be different to the way I usually work.



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What impact has working with visually impaired young people (if there was such work) had on your own practice?

Unfortunately, I had never been given the chance to work with visually impaired people that is why I do not know what impacts it will have on my own practice. However, I am convinced that my work will be influenced in a new and positive way and that I will learn as much from them as they learn from me.

What do you think is the value for visually impaired young people of working through theatre?

## **VISION**

What do you think we should consider regarding the use of theatre in the VISION project?

By using theatre in the VISION project one should definitely consider that these young people might struggle at the beginning since the idea of working in theatre while being visually impaired can seem hard and maybe even impossible. However, if they feel comfortable and accepted by the people they're working with they might overcome these doubts and maybe they can explore their hidden talents and capacities.



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What do you think could be the impact of this work?

I believe that with this project we will be able to unify people with different abilities and to make them connect with each other. Moreover, we can give a unique perspective of theatre to the participants as well as to the audience.

**Please attach a current CV with this questionnaire!**

Thanking you for your time and consideration:

The V.I.S.I.ON team

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