



Questionnaire for theatre expert

Name	Casimiro Alaimo
Occupation	Actor - Director- Artistic director
Country of residence	Italy

Please answer the following questions giving specific examples where possible:

Experience and Expertise

Outline your experience and expertise in the area of theatre

I attended a course for professional actors at Teatro Biondo, the main speech theatre of Palermo, for 6 years. I've taught acting in a private school for 8 years and recently I've become the artistic director of Teatro Finocchiaro, together with Katuska Falbo.

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

Theatre has been the motive behind my interior research. My research still continues day after day in every different role I have and the way I express myself and communicate keeps changing and improving.

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)?



Art in general is the highest expression of “beauty”. The task of every artist is, in my opinion, to give the others his personal way to feel beauty, to experience the universal “ocean” of thoughts and words and to communicate in a “pure” way. Only when this happens the audience can recognize the universal value of the performance.

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?

Each person as each group is different from every other. It is therefore difficult to find a common strategy for everyone. The most difficult experience I've ever had as a teacher was the one with vision impaired people. The strategy I used in my classes for vision impaired people was proposing group exercises to involve even the most reluctant pupils. Normally very few of them were reluctant, and became eager to join the others when they realized it was fun for all the others.

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.

Coming into contact with this reality was not at first so easy. The drama and art course was organized within the institute of the blind for people with various diseases. Moreover the people who took part in the drama course came from different groups already present in the institute, groups that collided with each other. The first months of the first course (2007) were not very fruitful because of the difficulties in creating harmony in the group. The presence of some elements with mental retardation, in the same class of students who were only vision impaired without any other disability were not profitable to solve clashes and made it really difficult to cope with. When we got over these difficulties, we managed to write all together a short film script. All of them worked on their own characters and I shoot the short film at the Institute of the blind. Then this was edited and included in a documentary I shot that showed some minutes of our lesson, that was projected as final event. It was a very intense experience for each one of my vision impaired pupils which increased their awareness.

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



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Personally I didn't treat vision impaired pupils in a different way. Only the kind of the 'method' I used was specific and personalized, because of their pathologies.

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

Working with vision impaired with serious diseases puts your motivation and energy to the test. It is one of the hardest life experience you could ever do.

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

I'm absolutely sure it has a great value. Working through theatre, getting in contact with emotions and communicate them allows vision impaired people to be more aware in everyday life and in some cases even in art.

VISION

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

The vision project is an ambitious project. I believe that every partner can bring an added value, because the country where each expert has been working is a different reality.

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

I think that creating a common method, that can be shared with all the experts involved in the project, can be in the future a great guide for people working with this kind of disability.

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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