



## Questionnaire for theatre expert

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Please answer the following questions giving specific examples where possible:

### **Experience and Expertise**

Outline your experience and expertise in the area of theatre

During 2013 I graduated from the National academy for theatre and film arts “Krastyo Sarafov”, specialty “Dance theatre”, with artistic director prof. Yassen Valchanov. Degree – bachelor: dance theatre actress.

During 2015 I graduated from the New Bulgarian University, master program: “Artistic psycho-social practices and psychodrama”, master in artistic psycho-social practices.

I have participated in a number of dance and theatre performances, dance miniatures; I was choreographer of two dance miniatures; and am an actress in the Playback theatre “Here and now”.

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

For me performance arts represent my life mission, my inspiration, the thing that makes me feel alive.



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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 possesses a unique healing power; there are numerous proves for that and one of them is the playback theatre.

For more information: <https://theatrehereandnow.wordpress.com>

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?

According to me, the development of a sense (among the group members) for joy from participation and feeling of importance via a public performance and sending a message to the audience, lies at the basis of such a work. The approaches and methods for work are defined by the characteristics of the respective group.

### **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.

I worked with visually impaired children and young people in 2015 within the present project V.I.S.I.O.N. During the first stage (between March and May 2015) I was a co-leader in the theatrical process and I initiated an independent intense dance process with 4 of the children, which I was a leader of. This process ended with the public presentation of a dance miniature.

I have described the views and my impressions from the two processes in my master thesis „Dance and theatre in the creative group process as a catalyst for the development of the psychical Me with visually impaired children “, 2015r.

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

For me the work at the school for visually impaired children “Louis Braille” was a completely new experience. During the process I discovered the means of expression, with which to





communicate with the v.i. youths; the most characteristic for them are the descriptive and specific descriptions as well as tactile demonstrations (during the training).

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

I think the children taught me to see better ... in all senses of the word.

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

According to me theatre work with v.i. children is of major importance for their psycho-social development, it helps and develops the connection with their own bodies, nonverbal communication, self-evaluation, communication with the others, sense of importance and many other (described in detail in the above master thesis);

However, I believe that in order for sustainable and long term results to be observed, the work with the children should continue over a number of years, should be intensive and with a fixed regularity of the activities.

## **VISION**

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

The way of work should take into consideration the specific needs of the children; when the group is mixed (children with various levels of visual impairment) the individual needs of each child should be taken into consideration; the work with children with poor vision and with completely blind children call for completely different approaches.

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

I hope, that in the social aspect, the general influence of such types of activities could manifest itself in the form of greater acceptability, better understanding and improved quality of communication with people with special needs.



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**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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