

PERFORMANCE OF A NEWSLETTER

The Online Monthly Newsletter of the East Side Institute

Issue #32, June 2007

Psychology News to Inspire and Use

SCENE AND HEARD

"Uncertainty in meaning for us became incipient poetry."

--Julie Vaudrin-Charette recalling The International Class's email conversations.

"We learned that doing something without knowing how to do it, even (and especially) when you don't want to, is developmental."

--International Class member Ernesto Barahona adds to the graduating Class's story.

CONFERENCES

Holzman Presents at International Society of Theoretical Psychology

Institute director Lois Holzman was a presenter at International Society of Theoretical Psychology conference, "Theoretical Psychology Beyond Borders: Transdisciplinarity and Internationalization," held at York University in Toronto, June 18-22. The conference brought together faculty and graduate students from 25 countries.

Holzman's presentations addressed the theoretical psychology community's interest in dialogue, conversation and meaning making. In a symposium entitled "Theorizing Dialogue," which included Ken Gergen, Barbara Zieke and discussant Hank Stam, Holzman focused on the topic of listening in dialogue, raising the question of whether and how one can listen without "aboutness."

In a second presentation, entitled "Vygotsky & Wittgenstein in Therapy: A Performed Demonstration," Holzman showed "The Myth of Psychology," a two-act play written by Fred Newman for presentation at the American Psychological Association's annual conventions. A lively dialogue about therapy, power, authority and performance ensued.

Farmer and Hamilton Present at Community Development Society

Institute faculty member, Esther Farmer, former Ombudsman for the NYC Housing Authority, and colleague Dale Hamilton were presenters at the Community Development Society's (CDS) annual conference in Appleton, Wisconsin June 16-21. Themed "The Magic of Community," the conference drew about 400 participants from around the US and Canada. Farmer, who is a board member of CDS and a member of the conference

planning committee, and Hamilton discussed "Bridging the Practice/Scholarship Divide: Putting the Passion Back into your Community Development Presentation."

Performing the World 4 to Include Diverse Array of Innovators

Over sixty proposals have been accepted for the upcoming "[Performing the World 4](#)" conference planned for October 12-14 in Tarrytown, New York. Presenters will discuss some of the cutting-edge, grassroots, community-building work happening in Europe, the Indian subcontinent, Africa, Australia, South America, Canada and the US.

Participants will include directors of street theatre, educators working in refugee camps, theatre people working to creatively impact on the HIV/AIDS epidemic, clowns raising the spirits of severely ill children, an array of academics and researchers, and dozens of other wonderful innovators, each harnessing performance, theatre, and creativity to build communities that can transform the conditions of poverty, ethnic violence and disease.

TRAINING

Graduation Day

Over the weekend of June 16-17, the Institute graduated members of the Developing Teachers Training Program, The International Class, and the Therapist Training Program.

Eleven public school teachers from across the tri-state area - members of the first class of the Developing Teachers Fellowship Program - graduated after a 10- month course of study. The Fellows' final projects, creative demonstrations of what they learned during the program, were indications of the success of the program, which will work with a new set of Fellows beginning in August.

Eight students from Bangladesh, Canada, Serbia, Taiwan and the US graduated from The International Class after 10 months studying social therapeutic methodology under the direction of Lois Holzman. They had been in New York from June 5 -17, doing coursework, honing their performance skills, observing groups, talking philosophy, and visiting programs around the city that make use of the Institute's performance-based approach.

At their "performance of a graduation," students recounted their struggles to become a learning team and to deal with hard issues, such as some members having insufficient funds to travel to New York. The successful fundraising efforts they evolved included "street work" in Union Square Park, where they introduced themselves to strangers, talked about their training, and asked for donations for pens bearing the logo, "Don't Leave Me Alone" (something that they had pledged to one another never to do). They leave an endowment for the next International Class, and expressed hope that replenishing this "endowment fund" will become a tradition as the program continues.

Ann Green, a sales and marketing executive, registered nurse, and new staff therapist at the Brooklyn Social Therapy Group, graduated from the Institute's two-year Therapist Training Program. A lay therapist active in building Social Therapy since the mid-1970s, Ann recounted the radical roots of social therapy as an anti-diagnostic, humanistic practice.

2007/8 International Class-More Points on the Globe

The 2007-8 International Class is expected to include students from more countries than ever, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nepal, India, Kenya, Liberia, the Philippines, El Salvador, Mexico, Pakistan, Serbia, South Africa, and the US.

Powpee Lee Completes 6-Month Residency

Powpee Lee, a member of The International class from Taipei, Taiwan, returned home on June 19 after a six-month residency in New York. In addition to participating in online classes and study projects, Powpee immersed himself in the activities of the Institute, the Social Therapy Group, Performance of a Lifetime, the All Stars Project, and "Youth Onstage!" -- pitching in as a member of the theatre house staff, building sets, participating in a social therapy group, learning / leading improv games, and gaining a first-hand appreciation for the programs and projects of the Institute's broader community.

CLASSES / WORKSHOPS / SPECIAL EVENTS

Newman Attracts Full-House

On June 24, Fred Newman drew 82 participants to the Fashion Institute of Technology for his seminar, "Another Look at Attraction." He said that as a developmentalist, what he found to be interesting about attraction was its potential for human growth. Could we use our attraction (to another person, to a beautiful sunset, to politics, etc., etc.) to deepen our understanding of whom or what we are attracted to and thus, go beyond ourselves and engage with others and with the world in new ways?

La Cerva Discusses How Kids Get Better in Groups

On June 2, longtime educator and therapist, Christine La Cerva, led a workshop on "The Importance of Groups for Growing Kids," where she shared some of what she's learned about how adults and young people can get better at creating group environments where everyone can develop emotionally and socially. Among those in attendance were two teachers who are applying to the Developing Teachers Fellowship Program, a museum educator, the co-founder of Project P.L.A.Y. School in Pennsylvania, and a CUNY graduate student.

Teachers' Panel Shares Successful Performances in the Classroom

On June 9, faculty member Carrie Lobman and Manhattan Social Therapy Group director, Matt Lundquist, hosted a panel of primary and secondary- school teachers to discuss their success at introducing the Institute's performatory learning approach into the public school classroom. It can be done! This according to panelists Heather Barfield, Maria Soto, Barbara O'Neill and Jim Martinez. The workshop participants included several elementary school teachers, social workers, an early childhood education professor from Fordham University, and a play theory specialist.

Book Signing for Lobman and Lundquist's "Unscripted Learning"

Immediately following the teachers' workshop on June 9, about 50 friends and colleagues celebrated the release of Carrie Lobman and Matt Lundquist's new book "[Unscripted Learning: Using Improv Activities Across the K-8 Curriculum](#)."

Lois Holzman, Christine LaCerva and Mary Fridley performed an (improvised, of course) three-headed toast to the authors, followed by a book signing. Later that evening, Matt Lundquist performed as "the therapist" in the Castillo Theatre's improv comedy show, "This Is Your Ridiculous Life," then regrouped with Lobman after the performance for an impromptu book-signing.

PUBLICATIONS

"Unscripted Learning" Arrives

In the first two weeks since its arrival, 140 copies of "Unscripted Learning" have been sold through the Institute. In addition, public schools the Institute works with have purchased copies for their entire teaching staff.

*** Excuses, Excuses***

If you haven't visited the "[Unscripted Learning](#)" blog, what are you waiting for? The blog includes commentary on hot topics in education as well as an "improv game of the week." This week's game: "Excuses, excuses!" which plays with clever rejoinders such as, "The dog ate my homework."

FUNDRAISING

Let's Develop (One Party at a Time!)"

Rebecca Widom Hosts Chinese Dumpling Fundraiser

International Class members Rebecca Widom and Powpee Lee held a Chinese dumpling party to help raise funds for the program on May 19 in Rebecca's Brooklyn home.

Carrie Sackett and Charles Alsdorf Host House Party

On June 11, financial services industry execs, Carrie Sackett and Charles Alsdorf, teamed up to host a cocktail party and fundraiser at Carrie's home. About a dozen colleagues new to the Institute attended. Mary Fridley made a short presentation on the Institute's work and PTW4.

ON THE HORIZON

Lois Holzman to Start Learning Group

Lois Holzman will begin a new learning group in July. The group is open to anyone interested in creating environments for thinking, learning, reading, writing, philosophizing and engaging the practice of method. Cost is \$95/session. Contact Melissa Meyer at mmeyer@eastsideinstitute.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

JUNE

Tuesday-Friday, June 26-29

Presentation: "Improvitational Teaching for Developmental Learning Good: Teaching is Improvisational"

Chris Helm

14th International Learning Conference, University of the Witwatersrand
Johannesburg, South Africa

Friday, June 29

Fundraiser: "A Taste of Development" (tasting event)

Carrie Lobman, Gwen Lowenheim, Joan Mahon Powell and others

Saturday, June 30, 11:00-1:00pm

Clinical Workshop: Creating New Physical Performances

Tom Vasiliades and Nancy Green

Manhattan Social Therapy Group

JULY

Saturday, July 1

Fundraiser: Cultural/Performance Evening

Rachelle Moore

Atlanta Center for Social Therapy

OCTOBER

Friday-Sunday, October 12-14

Performing the World 4: The Performance of Community and the Community of Performance

Conveners: Dan Friedman, Fred Newman, Lois Holzman, Sheila McNamee
Tarrytown House, Tarrytown, NY

Monday-Saturday, October 15-20

4th International Class

Residency 1

East Side Institute, NYC

East Side Institute