

PERFORMANCE OF A NEWSLETTER
The Online Newsletter of the East Side Institute
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Psychology News to Inspire and Use

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SCENE AND HEARD

When we play and perform we become personally involved and such involvement is essential to education. For true learning requires meaning making rather than the mere acquisition of knowledge. You've learnt the craft of weaving the fabric of social becoming to make the world more humane. There is nothing more important now than bringing the passion, contagious creativity, and pledge for social transformation into the dead contexts of human existence that are marked with regulated superficiality, deprived of expression of human will and enjoyment of freedom - regardless of whether it is a public school, academia, corporation, or international summit.

Elina Lampert-Shepel, Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Education,
Mercy College New Teacher Residency Program, speaking at the East Side Institute's
Graduation on June 14

NEW WAYS TO LEARN AND DEVELOP

New Institute training program to begin this fall

The Institute is accepting applications for [GroupWorks](#), its new three-month training program, to begin in September. The program is designed to bring together professionals from different fields and disciplines - counselors, educators, youth workers, organizational development and human resource professionals, coaches, psychotherapists, social workers and business leaders - and introduce them to the unique group-building approach based in social therapeutics. The program will focus on helping participants see and relate to the group as a unit of and development, use theatrical improvisation as a group-building and facilitation method, and appreciate and build positively with conflict. GroupWorks faculty are drawn from the [Institute](#), [the Social Therapy Group](#), and [Performance of a Lifetime](#), and bring field specific knowledge and decades of expertise in group work and performance. For more information or an application, please contact Barbara Silverman, GroupWorks director, at bsilverman@eastsideinstitute.org or 212.941.8906, ext 401. You may also go to www.eastsideinstitute.org/GroupWorks.htm

Social therapy part of diploma in discursive therapies

A 15-credit course in Principles of Social Therapy has become part of the [Massey University](#) Postgraduate Diploma in Discursive Therapies. The 120-credit postgraduate program was initiated by professor Andy Lock under the auspices of the School of Psychology at this major New Zealand University. It is conducted entirely online, and is one of the few postmodern therapies courses given at any university: "This diploma introduces the recently developed practices of narrative therapy, collaborative language systems, social therapy, Just therapy, and solution-focused therapy, which have, in their brief history, proved themselves to be effective, particularly with young children, teenagers, people with anorexia, and more recently in cases of depression, schizophrenia and some of the psychoses. The inspiration of these approaches in psychology, linguistics and philosophy are highlighted to provide insights into new ways of considering how people make sense of themselves and construct the world they live in as meaningful."

Blog with the International Class

Each year a group of exceptional professionals from across the globe descend on New York City to study/create with the Institute and each other.

They hear about our work through our web site, from a reading assignment from a course professor, by attending Performing the World, by meeting Institute director Lois Holzman or others at conferences, or from friends. They are scholars and practitioners serious enough about learning how to develop their communities that three times a year they drop everything to travel to New York for intensive study, while participating in online courses led by Institute faculty the remainder of the year.

This year's International Class graduates have established a blog on wordpress to share their work and dialogue with visitors on the site. You may visit the blog at: internationalclass.wordpress.com

Playgroup for Grown-Ups starts August 1

This summer Matt Lundquist, director of the Manhattan Social Therapy Group and of Learning Stages and Carrie Lobman, the Institute's education director and assistant professor of education at Rutgers University, will launch Playgroup (for Grown-Ups!), a project of the Learning Stage. You are invited to join Lundquist and Lobman, and a roomful of grown-up "playmates" for some willy-nilly, goofy, silly, artful, pointless play. Experience how guided, pointless play just might be the most valuable hour in your otherwise hectic, results-oriented week! Playgroup will meet the first Friday of the month 6:30-8:30pm starting August 1 at the Institute. For more information or to register, contact Matt Lundquist at mlundquist@socialtherapygroup.com.

CONFERENCES

Performing the World receives record number of proposals

[Performing the World 2008: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow](#) (PTW '08), the international conference/festival co-sponsored by the Institute and the [All Stars Project](#), received nearly 200 proposals by the April 1 submission deadline, representing nearly 400 performance activists and scholars from over 30 countries and two dozen US states. A number of proposals came from people who have never before participated in the conference and from countries that have previously gone unrepresented. The deadline for discounted registration is July 31. To register and for conference updates go to www.performingtheworld.org.

PTW '08's Housing Committee, led by the All Stars' Director of Volunteer Programs Gail Elberg and Institute faculty member Esther Farmer, are busy securing free housing for conference participants. To date, the committee has secured beds for 90 visitors in households throughout the five boroughs of New York City. To host a PTW participant, or to request housing, please visit www.performingtheworld.org and click on "Housing" or contact Gail Elberg, gelberg@allstars.org or Esther Farmer, efarmer@eastsideinstitute.org.

***Institute staff and faculty invited to join monthly peace dialogues ***

Esther Farmer and Mary Fridley, the Institute's director of development, were invited to join "The Dialogue Facilitators Networking Group," a new initiative launched by the New York City-based [Network for Peace Through Dialogue](#) (NPTD). The Networking Group, which grew out of a 2007 NPTD-sponsored conference "Why Dialogue?" is a forum for practitioners who believe in the importance of dialogue and conversation in the peace-making/conflict resolution process. In addition to Mary and Esther, group members include a high-level official from a non-governmental organization at the UN, a partner in a dispute resolution firm, and a social worker who specializes

in dialogues between Holocaust survivors and the German Christian WWII generation. The group held its first meeting in May and will meet monthly for the next five months.

Fridley speaks at women and leadership conference

Mary Fridley spoke of the Institute and its international development community as a member of a panel of women business and non-profit leaders at a conference on "Women and Leadership" on April 16. The event was sponsored by the Gender Policy Working Group of the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, one of the most prestigious programs of its kind in the world. Other panelists included the president of Women's World Banking, the president of Moody's Foundation, and a special advisor to the United Nations Development Program on Community-Based Initiatives.

TRAINING

Homeschoolers improvise with Lobman

On May 20, at the invitation of homeschoolers Janice and Joe Dubroff, Carrie Lobman led a workshop entitled "Yes and! Using Improv Comedy to Learn and Grow Together" for 25 parents, grandparents and children from the [Long Islanders Growing at Home Together](#) (L.I.G.H.T) homeschool networking for Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk counties. Lobman led the group in storytelling, performance and improvisation exercises (many of them from *Unscripted Learning: Using Improv Activities Across the K-8 Curriculum* by Lobman and Matt Lundquist). Workshop participants then engaged in a very lively conversation about their experiences with homeschooling. Institute director Lois Holzman is excited about this new relationship with homeschoolers, as she is eager to foster dialogues with outside-of-school organizations. If you are part of a homeschooling group and would like to work with the Institute in some way, please contact the Institute's director of programs, Melissa Meyer, at mmeyer@eastsideinstitute.org.

The International Class meets in New York City for 3rd residency

The Institute's fourth [International Class](#) completed the third and final residency period of their 10-month program. The 12 students came from Argentina, Bosnia-Herzegovina, El Salvador, India, Macedonia, Mexico, New York and Serbia, these grassroots innovators and leaders used the two weeks to study at the Institute and to visit other programs influenced by social therapy throughout the city. The IC, led by Lois Holzman, observed social therapy groups at the Brooklyn and Manhattan Social Therapy Groups, visited the classrooms of teachers in the Developing Teachers Fellowship Program, attended the gala reopening of the All Stars Project's 42nd St headquarters and met with All Stars' president Gabrielle Kurlander and several of the organization's program directors, and participated in a series of seminars, workshops and conversations with Institute faculty.

For biographies on this and previous years' International Class, and information on how to apply: www.eastsideinstitute.org/InternationalClass.htm.

Applications for the 2008-9 International Class are being accepted through July 31, 2008.

Social Therapy for Beginners

On June 7, a grouping of twenty helping professionals (art therapists, holistic health counselors, nurses, social service agency administrators and psychology students) attended an Introduction to Social Therapy workshop at the Institute. Led by Christine LaCerva, director of the Brooklyn Social Therapy Group, and Lois Holzman, participants shared their understandings of emotional development and improvisationally performances as intake therapists. Several participants expressed interest in further training with the Institute. Another workshop is scheduled for Saturday, October 18. For more information or to register, go to the Institute's website at www.eastsideinstitute.org/events.

Silverman and Sabo Flores Talk About Sex at St. Vincent's

On May 28 Barbara Silverman and 2008 International Class graduate Kim Sabo Flores led a workshop entitled "Promoting Prevention in our Young: Learn New Skills In Communicating Safer Behaviors To Children, Adolescents And Young Adults" sponsored by the Comprehensive HIV Center and Nicholas A. Rango HIV Clinical Scholars Program of the Saint Vincent Catholic Medical Centers at St. Vincent's Manhattan. Both are leading youth development professionals: Silverman is known nationally for her "Let's Talk About It" youth mental health program at Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn and as co-facilitator of the Youth Involvement and Leadership Practice Group for the IDEA Partnership and the Center for School Mental Health; Sabo Flores is an evaluation consultant who has pioneered the emerging field of youth participatory evaluation. Silverman and Flores were joined by Joy Lynn Alegarbes, an international prevention workshop leader for Condemania and the Joey DiPaolo AIDS Foundation, and together the three facilitators offered St Vincents' staff participants a performatory understanding of conversation and new tools to talk with youth about HIV/AIDS prevention.

EVENTS

Teaching fellows & international class students perform a graduation

Over 65 people attended the first joint graduation for two of the Institute's training programs on June 14 at the National Comedy Theatre in New York City. Nine public school teachers from three boroughs graduated from the [Developing Teachers Fellowship Program](#), and 12 international grassroots leaders from seven countries graduated from The International Class. The Fellows shared the impact the training has had on their teaching through an interview-style presentation led by Carrie Lobman, while the International Class expressed themselves through movement and spoken word performances. Teacher educator and Vygotskian scholar Elina Lampert-Shepel, a longtime Institute colleague and friend, was the guest speaker. The graduation ended with a reception and champagne toast.

FUNDRAISING

***Spring Community Meeting & Fundraiser ***

On April 27, 70 close friends and supporters attended the first of two community meeting fundraisers the Institute will host in 2008. The fundraisers are the centerpiece of an annual campaign designed to raise \$100,000 for the Institute and its training initiatives. Those in attendance were reminded by Institute co-founder Fred Newman of the special responsibility they, as the Institute's "People's Board of Directors," shoulder at a time when mainstream philanthropy has intensified its efforts to eradicate poverty internationally. While Newman applauds leading philanthropists for investing billions of dollars in these efforts, he understands that such generosity has not been extended to innovative, outside-the-box programs in some of the world's most impoverished countries and communities. Why? "Because the people these grassroots programs serve are seen as 'chronically unhelpable.' That's why it's up to you, as the people's board, to support the Institute and the community we've helped to build." By meeting's end, \$50,000 had been pledged, and a total of \$70,000 has been pledged to date. To make a tax-deductible donation go to: www.eastsideinstitute.org/donate.html or contact Melissa Meyer at mmeyer@eastsideinstitute.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

Tuesday, July 1
Developing Teachers Fellowship Program
Applications Due for 2008/9

Monday, July 21
Learning Group with Lois Holzman
East Side Institute

Thursday, July 31
International Class Program
Applications due for 2008/9

AUGUST

Friday, August 1
Playgroup (for Grown-Ups!)
with Matt Lundquist and Carrie Lobman
The Learning Stage

Friday, August 15
Open House
Brooklyn Social Therapy Group

SEPTEMBER

Friday, September 5
Playgroup (for Grown-Ups!)
with Matt Lundquist and Carrie Lobman
The Learning Stage

Friday, September 19
Wellness Series: What's Philosophizing Got To Do With It? with Phyllis Goldberg
Brooklyn Social Therapy Group

OCTOBER

Thursday, October 2 - Sunday, October 5
Performing the World 2008:
Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

Tuesday, October 7 - Saturday, October 11
International Class Residency #1
East Side Institute

Friday October 17 - Monday, November 17
Online Seminar: Topic to be announced.

Saturday, October 18
Introduction to Social Therapy, a workshop for beginners
with Christine LaCerva & Lois Holzman
East Side Institute

NOVEMBER

Friday, November 5
Playgroup (for Grown-Ups!)
with Matt Lundquist and Carrie Lobman
The Learning Stage

November date TBA
Fall Community Meeting & Fundraiser
East Side Institute

Saturday, November 15
Wellness Series Workshop
Brooklyn Social Therapy Group

Friday, November 21-Monday, December 22
Online seminar - topic to be announced.