

Report

What should we be teaching theatre students?

vanessa cornford, 9 September 2013

are students getting younger? are they depressed and overpaying? what do they want to learn?

Our group cares about students and theatre and teaching and we talked a lot about what we should be teaching them.

is there a craft of acting that you can learn? 'acting is not learnable'; just enable them to find themselves as artists; acting is a mythical thing, the classic model outdated; young people just need confidence, freedom to play and a sound knowledge of what and who is out there.

advice to young theatre makers; 'if you're busy with your own shit, you'll probably get the job'.

there is no good acting and bad acting; craft and technique are not end in themselves they are means to doing your own thing.

how do you teach voice when it has less to do with 'classes' and everything to do with psychology and confidence.

are we in a reductive culture? 'i watched a little of x-factor' and i can honestly say 'we are f....d'. How to teach young people about theatre that can only be theatre and nothing else? that you can make your own work and not wait for phonecalls, someone to make you and tell you what to do?

introduce them to lots of people in the arts; share your stories, share your life.
ask them: What do you want to be? and, What do you want to be doing?

allow the class to follow its own nose!

Teach them that artists have been and go to dark places; that is ok; that is art; come in and out of the light.

Give them the right to speak! but what if they want proper actor training?

first talk at drama school years ago: tutor walked in and said: 'As a society, we don't need you'.

'When I audition people I just want to meet the human being that I might spend a few weeks around. I never ask them what degree they have'.