



THE EDERED HANDBOOK



EDERED

European Drama Encounters

Rencontres Européennes de Drama



HISTORY

EDERED was founded in 1985. The idea grew out of an initiative put forward by the Council of Europe in a seminar hosted by Sweden in Eskilstuna in 1979 under the title, "Children and Culture in Contemporary Europe".

The organisation consists of an executive board and a general assembly. Membership is open to those who have been responsible for the running of an Encounter in their own countries and to those who plan to organise one in the near future.

- The first Children's Encounter took place in 1982.
- The first Youth Encounter was held in 1987.

The Encounters usually last for two weeks and consist of an intensive inter-cultural workshop programme and planned social activities.

The Encounters culminate in a final showing/presentation.

Participants do not bring prepared theatre performances to the Encounters.

PHILOSOPHY

The Encounter exists for the benefit of the participants and therefore all activities of the organisation have that focus.

To that end the following Six Principles of EDERED have been developed and they form the philosophical basis for all Encounters.

1. The Encounter is open-minded, welcomes diverse ways of working in drama/theatre and facilitates various approaches in methodology.
2. The Encounter provides opportunities for sharing these various approaches.
3. The environment of an Encounter is non-competitive.
4. The Encounter is a process of listening, inter-cultural co-operation and provides opportunities for children/young people/leaders to share their ideas and experiences in a safe environment.
5. Each Encounter recognises the unique opportunity provided for the social interaction of children/young people from diverse cultures.
6. It should be fun!



CONTENTS OF THE ENCOUNTER

THEME

Each Encounter has an overall theme, which is used, in the workshops and in the final performances. The theme is used both as an inspiration in the individual workshops and as a main line that connects the individual performances. The theme is also used as a tool to make the participants share and exchange views, stories and ideas on the theme, based on their individual cultural background and outlook on life.

The theme can be about an important issue or politically relevant to the current situation. It should be appropriate to the age group, interesting for the participants and fun to work with.

Examples of themes used in different Encounters: Changes, Dreamtime, Space, Chains.

ANTHEM

Each Encounter has an anthem, created by professional musicians and the participants. The anthem can be used in the final performance.

The anthem is not supposed to be composed before the Encounter.

The anthem supposed to be possibly based on the national culture of the hosting country.

WORKSHOPS

The workshop is the place where the participants and the workshop leaders work together in mixed groups, share their ideas and experiences and create a final performance by the end of the Encounter.

The workshops are normally held by two workshop leaders from two different countries.

The workshops should give the opportunity to use theatre as an international language to understand and express oneself by using body and voice for artistic interaction.

The work is non competitive.

MORNING WARM UP

The morning warm up is the time where all the participants share a workshop together. Each warm up is directed either by students, workshop leaders or the different countries.

NATIONAL EVENINGS

The National Evenings are a way to introduce the participating countries. Each country prepares a small show in order to show, present and tell something about their home country. The shows can be very different, either presented with a great deal of humor, beautiful pictures or a folkloristic dance.

National evening is not of competitive nature, but represents the participants' point of view of their own country and culture, using drama means.

MARKET PLACE

A concept known as the 'Market Place' has evolved from past Encounters and has been firmly established. The idea is that each national group sets up a stall displaying aspects of their country...e.g. posters, food samples, local artefacts and/or instructs others in simple songs/dance. Participants are asked to bring food, music, posters, flags etc from their country and set up a stall to display these goods.

The Market Place has a very special atmosphere of people trading goods, learning songs and dances and tasting national dishes like Finnish licorice, Turkish kebab, Belgian chocolate and German meatballs.

If possible make an effort to relate your display to the Encounter theme chosen by the host country.

The host country provides facilities, space, stand/table etc.

The Welfare and Workshop Leaders have the responsibility for the 'Market Place'. It forms the official opening of the Encounter at which visitors will be present.

The importance of the marketplace should be emphasized to each national group before the Encounter.

National groups inform the host organization of their needs for the marketplace before the Encounter.

National groups should have enough time to prepare their stand during free time.

National group leaders ensure that every participant has the opportunity to explore other stands while sharing the responsibility of operating their own.

Marketplace should have the spirit of sharing, not bargaining.

SKILL WORKSHOPS

During the Encounter either group leaders or national artists who can impart special skills can give one or more skill workshops.

The workshops should work towards developing the theme of the Encounter.

Workshop leaders should not be forced to give a skill workshop; Artistic Director should brief the skill workshop leaders to make sure that they teach a specific skill.

Information about the different skill workshops should be given beforehand.

Skill workshop leaders could introduce their workshop in a short presentation.

FINAL PERFORMANCE

The performances illustrate the process that the groups have been through during the two weeks.

The final performances are usually born from a variety of improvisations from the workshops. The participants work with gestures, text, music, objects and voice, create images and impulse related to the theme. The participants will experience and share different meanings of the theme. The performance is constructed and shaped by the participants and the workshop leaders.

The Final Performance should be in the spirit of EDERED – respecting the work of the workshop leaders.

Technical equipment should be of high quality; staff should be technically competent.

It is the choice of the hosting country where, when and how speeches are made, and who is invited to speak. This happens in close co-operation with the EDERED board or else with nominated EDERED members who are able to advise and/or are involved in that Encounter.

The key, as a symbol is given from one hosting country to the next one.

Basic requirements should be provided during the final presentation. Whether the requirement is refreshments or extra-props the organization team should be able to provide them.

The space used needs to be a busy or big location in order to attract a bigger audience.

The final presentation should be advertised in advance.

FINAL PARTY

A final party should be held in order to give the young people enough time to celebrate their successful performance, chat and dance.

