

World Wide Virtual Theatre | Mailout

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Sue from mailout spent an afternoon in Rotterdam's Wijktheater learning about a virtual theatre collaboration

A few years ago, some community theatre people met up at the ICAF festival, got excited by each other's work and wanted to collaborate. The problem was that they were from Belgium, USA, South Africa and Peru. They wanted to work on something "for life", not a short term project and not on anything which involved too much flying and expense.

They got together and plotted out a theatre idea which involved new technology, film and DHL. One group would work on some film, post it to the next, who worked it into a live performance, and so it went on.

They had challenges to their meetings. Time zones, differences in IT infrastructure, and in South Africa, frequent powercuts.

At this workshop, we learned about their tenacity, their determination to overcome language and technological problems, and we even made a piece of film ourselves to be used by the group.

We had a skyped peice of theatre from some school children in Antwerp beamed into the auditorium, and we all waved at each other. The brave finale was a skype video conference between us in Rotterdam, New York and Peru. Believe it or not, it all worked well.

What I liked about this was their determination and patience as a group. their willingness to take a slow pace, not rush each other, and not have unreasonable goals. In a time when we feel under pressure to meet deadlines and targets, to hear people talk about taking "a lifetime" to make someting work, is real commitment and engagement. The art was excellent too.

For more info , visit their newly launched website www.worldcarrousel.org