

Divadelní workshop – Othello zážitkově
aneb
Shakespeare není nudný patron, nad kterým se ubozí studenti jen moří

Skupiny Aj1 Sext a Septim, 5,5 hodinový workshop pod vedením profesionálních herců

Cíle:

- proniknout do hereckých technik a psychologie postav zážitkovou metodou
- spolupracovat s profesionály
- nebát se somatické stránky jazyka
- nebránit se posouvání hranice vlastního komfortu
- být schopni improvizovat dle zadaného klíče ke změně scény-postavy-slov
- uvést historické a filozofické pozadí doby na kontrétních jevech /alžbětinská Anglie, neoplatonismus, postavení Anglie v tehdejší světě

Cíle, které vyplynuly ze zpětné vazby studentů:

- naučit se lépe spolupracovat a vycházet s lidmi ze skupiny, kteří jsou na běžných hodinách rozdělení a nespolečující /z různých tříd/
- zvládnout situaci, kdy ne všichni budou připraveni /a tak ne všichni vědí, co mají ve scénkách dělat/

“Nonjudgement quiets the internal dialogue, and this opens once again the doorway to creativity” /Deepak Chopra/

“All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players”, napsal Shakespeare. Jsme tedy pouze herci na jevišti světa, jsme loutky v ruce vesmíru či vyšší moci, jak říká Hamlet, či jsme architekti našeho života? Je mysl tou nejsilnější zbraní, která může ovládat city, jak tvrdí Jago? Je divadlo odrazem skutečnosti, zkoncentrovaným náhledem na život, či nereálná přibarvená zábava s prvky kritiky společnosti?



Dvě skupiny studentů přečetli a nastudovali hru Othello v originále. Po počátečním boji s jazykem si rychle Shakespearův jazyk osvojili a byli schopni hře nejen rozumět a interpretovat vlastními slovy, ale vnímat zároveň nuance jazyka, význam jemného odstínu slova či dokonce hlásek a uvědomit si úmyslnou volbu autora. Sledovali jsme paralelně různá nastudování /The Royal Shakespeare Company, The Globe Theatre/ a různé podání postav, od klasických po moderně pojaté - nastudování RSC ze 2018, kde Desdemona je moderní sebevědomá úspěšná žena, či nastudování, kde Iago má tmavou pleť tak jako Othello, což záměrně posouvá rasistický podtón hry do jiných, možná o mnoho nebezpečnějších rovin. Přepsali jsme klíčové pasáže do moderní angličtiny, a na hodinách klíčové scény hráli. Shlédli jsme rozhovory s herci, sledovali jejich divadelní zkoušky a tak pronikali pod pouhé řádky. Jedna možnost o učít se o literatuře, a jiná je vžít se do postav a děje tak, že jsme schopni myslet i mluvit jako daná postava, chápeme její pohnutky, její vnitřní dialog, který ani nemusí být napsaný.



Je rozdíl definovat blankverse jako osmistopý jambický nerýmovaný verš, a je úplně jiná zkušenost vnímat nerýmované řádky jambického verše jako tlukot srdce, ta-dum-ta -dum...a jako klusot koní, např. Když Julie očekává Romea s svým “Gallop apace, you fiery-footed steeds”, anebo v úplně jiném využití, kdy se Othello rozhoduje Desdemonu rituálně zabít “Arise, black vengeance, from

thy hollow hell”.

Je rozdíl číst si o této hře, že je to “tragédie sexuální zářivosti”, a vnímat dekompozici myslí obdivuhodného člověka obratnou manipulací Jaga a sehrát, či improvizovat, co vlastně vedlo k tragickému konci, a zda rasistický výklad tohoto není dobovou misinterpretací. Podívali jsme se pod poličku dobového pozadí, prozkoumali, jaký měla Anglie tehdy styk s muslimským světem, a co mohl Shakespeare převzít od historicky dokumentovaných postav /např. diplomatů/.

Nicméně, ke skutečnému hereckému ztvárnění jsme si na celý jeden den pozvali ředitele The Bear Theatre a profesionálního herce Davida Fishera a jeho kolegy z Prague Shakespeare Theatre, Patrika a Sáru. Po pozvolném warm-upu, kde se hravou formou představil koncept high a low power body cues, tedy řeč těla odpovídající pocitu nadřazenosti či podřazenosti, které se odráží v chůzi, pohledu, postavení těla, úhlu ramen, šíje, rychlosti pohybu, kontrolovatelnosti, prostoru, který osoba zaujímá: a jak David uvedl, ani jedno není to jediné správné, dobrý manager se umí přizpůsobit situaci a pohybovat se po celé škále, se odboural počáteční strach z “hraní divadla”, skupinky se rozdělily a pracovaly na svém pojetí hry: Jedna skupinka si v podskupinkách vybrala svoje scény, které modifikovali a zkoušeli s různými přístupy, druhá se rozhodla pro zkratku celé hry v 11 scénách.

Partik a Sára se věnovali oběma, každý s jiným přístupem: Sára kombinuje své taneční vzdělání, pracuje se somatickou stránkou jazyka a představivosti, dechem, práci s vlastní myslí: skupinky měly za úkol např. ztvárnit Jaga jako hada. Jak by se scéna změnila, kdy postavy mluvily srdcem? Rozumem? Nebo daly na pocit?

Patrik měl skupiny k divadelnímu ztvárnění: jak zahrát dvojí lež? Jak zahrát eskalaci citů, vedoucí až k výbuchu Othello ve známé scéně s kapesníkem? Jak se změní pocit publika, když Jágo bude stát nehybně s očima upřenýma na pevný bod, či mluvit s obecněstvem?

Po 4,5 hodinách práce se vybrané scénky nafilmovali a studenti si je zpracovali. Na workshopech byla uvolněná, ale velmi intenzivní, tvořivá atmosféra.

Studenti zároveň zažili na vlastní kůži, jaké to je pracovat s profesionály ale bez strašáka v podobě známkování, či posuzování dle výkonu. Ono “nonjudgement” je právě úžasným kritériem tvořivé práce, kterou klasické vyučování dokáže zničit. Zde nejsou měřítka toho, co je jediné správné: individuální hlas má váhu, individuální změna tónu, vyjádření, reakce je vnímána, nikoli souzena. Studenti – herci tak byli pouze naváděni, posilováni ve své schopnosti překonat své hranice komfortu. Koneckonců, presentační dovednosti jsou velkým heslem a cílem 21. století, ale bez znalosti sebe, svých slabin a mechaniky své mysli se naučit nedají.

Jsem velmi ráda, že se zúčastnili i studenti, kteří k divadlu nemají nejbližší: během 5,5 hodin dokázali odprostit od své identity a přijmout identitu různých postav, dokázali změnit scény dle zadání spočívajícím ve variabilitě nadřazenosti či podřazenosti: v klíčových slovech, v moci slov a psychické manipulace jak slovy tak zejména tím nevysloveným, v roli náhody /co by se stalo, kdyby Desdemona měla ještě 5 minut?/

Myslím, že studenti si tento den užili, což dokládají jejich příspěvky:

I myself don't like acting - it's not my jam and I find it very stressful and uncomfortable. But this workshop proved me otherwise. It was fun and I was actually looking forward to acting out my scene with my partner. I liked how they started off easy with simple warm up exercises and then continued on to the main thing. They didn't pressure us into doing anything uncomfortable and in the end it was really enjoyable and we laughed a lot. /Veronika, Septima/

I enjoyed the workshop. Sam and Patrick were very nice and it was easy to work with them right from the start. I didn't feel like I was being judged or examined. The workshop felt like an outlet, we were allowed to experiment and explore what we wanted to. On the other hand I wish we had been offered some activities from Sam and Patrick so we could learn from them a little bit more and see different insight on the topic or acting in general. Overall I enjoyed the workshop and am grateful for the opportunity. /Kateřina, Sept./

I enjoyed the workshop a lot. They managed to create a nice environment, where everyone felt comfortable, which is quite hard to do (especially when it comes to acting and expressing yourself) The activities were fun as well as very insightful. I feel like I got closer to understanding Shakespeare. /Anna, Sept./

I was a bit nervous about the workshop and I was not sure what to expect. However, it turned out really well and I enjoyed it, so thank you! /Kost'a, Sept./

Recently, I participated in an Othello workshop and, to be honest, I was pretty skeptical when I first heard about it. But it has massively exceeded my expectations. The experience was something completely different (in a good way) than I ever could imagine and I enjoyed it very much. By playing the play, I understood Shakespeare's Othello much more than by simply reading it. I learned many details in the story I missed when I read it.

The workshop was such a great experience mostly thanks to the actors. I was really surprised they made it to our school and I am grateful they did. They knew a lot about acting, Othello, and Shakespeare generally. We learned a lot from them. I enjoyed the games at the start of the workshop. I especially liked the staring contest, it was so good. When we played the scenes, they gave us a lot of good advice on how to better play the scenes.

On the topic of actually playing the play, our plans were a little too ambitious. We chose several scenes from every act and distributed the roles among ourselves. Everybody had two or three different roles. And in the end, we had to cut it to one scene per act. These five scenes we then filmed. We were lucky we had Tessa. She took up the role of the director. Thanks to her management we managed to practice and film those five final scenes. Everybody gave their maximum into practicing the scenes and I saw great actor potential in many of my classmates. I can't forget the legendary 'The handkerchief' scene, it was a masterpiece.

I enjoyed the whole workshop very much. I am grateful to Mrs. Synková for organizing the workshop and making it possible. I must thank David, Sarah, and Patrick for finding time to be part of this workshop. Thank you to all participants. /Vojta, Sx/

Having gone through the Theatre workshop on Wednesday I must say I enjoyed it and view it positively. The most important achievement for me (even if it was not the main aim of the workshop) was that it brought us together as a group which will make our future work easier and more enjoyable. During the workshop, we reenacted numerous scenes successfully and understood the whole play deeper. We were perhaps a little too confident to tackle as many scenes, but with our time, we did surprisingly well. Each of us experienced playing different characters and we were able to see the play from various different perspectives. As for the actors that were there to help us, I appreciated their feedback, however, I wish they interfered more and taken on the role of the director, making up for what we have not done - suggesting and sharing what they have learned during years of experience (so we could use their knowledge to its full potential). I really liked the initial "warm-up" and exercises and felt it helped us and the actors get on the same page. I was very impressed with some of my classmates who not only did a wonderful job bringing the characters to life, they planned everything with great detail. Overall, I believe the workshop helped us complete our views and impressions of Othello and made us feel more confident about its interpretation. /Klára, Sx/

The workshop exceeded my expectations. I really liked Sarahs, Patricks and David's approach. I liked how they first wanted us to take „small steps,, (going around the room and saying hi), that made me (and probably all of us) less uncomfy with the later proper acting. All three of them were really passionate and filled with energy which filled us with energy too. Overall it was a really enjoyable experience. /Tomáš, Sx/

Before we had this workshop, I thought it would be a complete disaster but it turned out otherwise. I do want to mention that the first draft was basically created by only a few people and the final one exactly by four, Anita, me, Filip and Klára. Even though we gave others the option to help us and to contribute, nobody really cared, which shouldn't really blame them for, but I do. The beginning of the workshop was quite intriguing and as we continued it went smoothly. The actors were really kind to us and it was an honour to have them there, i just wish we could've kept Patrick the entire time, because i feel like he worked with us better. One thing that i'm quite sad about is that not a lot of people knew what was going on in the play in their given scenes, but that got better along the way. I definitely think this was an amazing idea and would do it again at any given time, because it not only showed us the new perspective of the play but it also brought us closer. It was quite surprising how well we all got along, because in our normal lessons it's usually pretty divided. With that also came the organization of the entire thing which was quite doubtful, but at the end everyone came dressed as they were asked and we also got the props!! /Tereza, Sx/

I found the workshop very enjoyable, the actors were highly professional and their insight into our work was very helpful.

However, regarding the preparation of the class as a whole, there were stark differences in the amount of effort students put into it, it was disappointing to see many people did not care to read their assigned scenes and as a result were not able to perform them to their best ability. On the other hand, I was pleasantly surprised to see everyone show up in black outfits, as we agreed and that many of us brought props.

Thanks to Tereza's organisation, we were still able to work fairly efficiently and with satisfying results. I, therefore, consider this workshop to be a success, despite the tight time frame, which resulted in us not being able to film alternative takes of the scenes. /Anita, Sx/

Thanks to David, Sarah and Patrick I enjoyed the workshop much more than I expected. They were working very well with as and they were giving good advice too. And even though I am not very good at acting I'm glad that I could enjoy this workshop. /Amy, Sx/

To be honest, when I first heard about the idea of a theater workshop I was quite skeptical. However it turned out to be a beneficial session. I learned a lot about body language, practiced speaking before an audience (I really appreciated feedback from professional actors) and overall had a great time. In addition I must admit I was genuinely surprised how well we worked as a group, mostly thanks to Tereza's involvement (for example we all had black smart-casual clothes :D). Nonetheless the catering could be better and the actors could intervene more. (Filip, Sx)

Overall, I loved the workshop, the actors were very nice and I felt comfortable working with them (which is not a rule for me in this kind of activity). It actually helped me expand my comfort zone and really get into the minds of the characters. The only thing I might have done a little differently was the last part (the final filming). I understand the idea behind it, and it was interesting to see what the other group did all day, but it ended up being a little long and I might have preferred to spend that time acting or in discussion with the actors.

But overall I really enjoyed it and I'm grateful that you organized it for us :) (Kristýna, sept)

