



CARE FORUM SERIES



Applied Theatre: Examining the Singapore Context

Facilitated by: Dr Peter O' Connor

Tuesday, 23 November 2010, 2:30-4:30 pm
NIE Lecture Theatre 9 (Block 3, 01-LT9)
National Institute of Education, 1 Nanyang Walk,
Singapore 637616

SYNOPSIS: Applied Theatre is a vibrant and rapidly developing field of practice and research with a growing presence in Singapore. The term Applied Theatre, as practitioner and theorist Judith Ackroyd has pointed out, is used to cover a large spectrum of 'dramatic activity' performed by an extraordinarily varied, even disparate group of individuals and organizations. For instance, Applied Theatre can include Prison Theatre, Reminiscence Theatre, Drama Therapy, Theatre of the Oppressed, Community Theatre, Drama in Education ... the list goes on. Dr Peter O'Connor, a world leader in the field, will identify the depth and breadth of Applied Theatre before bringing together a panel of Singaporean practitioners to discuss their work. Audience members will be invited to participate in the conversation and to consider future possibilities.

ABOUT DR PETER O'CONNOR: Peter is the director of Applied Theatre Consultants Ltd in New Zealand. The company holds national and international contracts to create theatre on topical and sensitive issues including teenage suicide, family violence and sexual abuse. He is also a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Auckland and an adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Sydney.

ABOUT THE PANELISTS:

- **Applied Theatre in the Prison Schools.** EDMUND CHOW (Raffles Institution, SDEA). What effect does drama have on prison inmates in Singapore? What are the challenges faced by both inmates and facilitator? How can an applied theatre program be sustained for long-term rehabilitation? These are some of the issues that will be raised as Edmund shares his experiences working as a full-time educator in a prison school from 2004 to 2009.
- **Theatre in the Corporate Industry.** PEGGY FERROA (Independent Artist, SDEA). More and more multinational companies and corporations are using theatre conventions to hold an audience to deliver their messages. How popular forms of theatre and the arts can be applied to enhance messages, identities and services will be shared and discussed.
- **Reflections on being a Drama Teacher.** ELVIRA HOMBERG (CHIJ Toa Payoh, SDEA). Education is dialogue and theatre "is a language through which human beings can engage in active dialogue on what is important to them." Elvira will share her experiences as a drama teacher working in 3 different school systems - Singapore education, International Schools and local Dutch schools.
- **Drama Box's Community Theatre.** KOH HUI LING (Drama Box). Hui Ling will be speaking about Drama Box's community theatre program. She will briefly introduce the company and highlight its pedagogy and areas of focus in community theatre in Singapore.
- **Diploma in Applied Drama at Singapore Polytechnic.** JENNIFER WONG (Singapore Polytechnic). This presentation will focus on the journey to gaining recognition and funding for Diploma in Applied Drama & Psychology and its graduates.

TO REGISTER

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