



Erasmus+



# RE.Sto.Re

**REcognition of the Social Theatre Operator  
as a professional to tackle the Risk of  
social Exclusion**

***Newsletter N.5 - FEBRUARY 2021***

## **Partner organisation**

Oltre Le Parole Onlus (Italy)  
Comunità San Patignano (Italy)  
Smashing Times International Centre for  
the Arts & Equality (Ireland)  
ProSoc Association (Slovenia)  
Bielskie Stowarzyszenie Artystyczne  
Teatr Grodzki (Poland)  
PELE Associacao Social e Cultural  
(Portugal)  
Magenta Consultoria Projects (Spain)

## **Associated partners**

Università Roma Tre (Italy)  
Assoc. San Patignano Scuola e  
Formazione (Italy)  
Associazione DireFareCambiare (Italy)

**A social theatre operator or theatre facilitator conducts theatre in a range of social and community contexts which indicates they are creating theatre that is directly connected to and rooted within the community or group that has produced it.**



Drawing by Kerol, Comunità San Patignano

# OLTRE LE PAROLE WILL CELEBRATE THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION



**O**n March 21, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is celebrated around the world, announced by the Nations United in remembrance of the Sharpeville massacre of 1960, the bloodiest day of apartheid in South Africa.

From 21 to 27 March Oltre le Parole presents “Racism is not an opinion”, a project by UNAR (National Office against Racial Discrimination of the Presidency of the Italian Council of Ministers)

A week of activities to talk about racism, which will take place in

5 Italian regions: Lombardy, Tuscany, Lazio, Puglia and Sicily.

Meetings with middle and high school students, performances by artists, online and face-to-face meetings (where possible) with industry experts and first-person testimonials:

the writer Francesca Cavallo, the artist Jonis Bascir, the musicians of the famous “Orchestra di Piazza Vittorio”, the young Syrian actress Sara El Debush, the journalist Karima Moual and other national and international guests.

Among the partners of Oltre le Parole, also the “Giornalisti

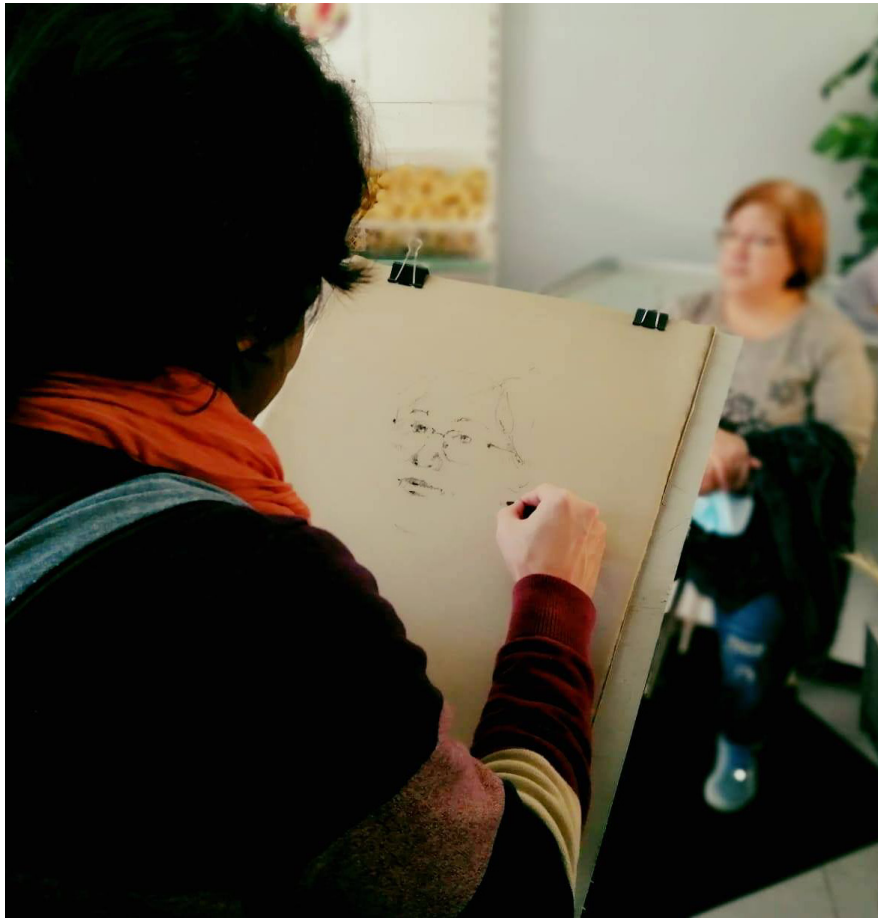
nell’Erba”: a national project to raise awareness of scientific issues in particular related to the environment and Sustainability and a newspaper that involves thousands of young people (from 3 to 29 years old) in a field exercise of correct and effective information in the scientific field.

The “Chiave di Svolta” association with the “Dire Fare Cambiare” project will be a partner for communication.

[www.teatrocivile.it](http://www.teatrocivile.it)



**F**rom 17 to 27 novembre started a new project in Azevedo (in the suburbs of Porto, Portugal), focused on collective creation and community participation, PELE has been finding new ways to approach the community, by portraying the local people. Within the socially excluded context where this project takes place, the “Portraits of Azevedo” activity proposed an empathic approach, focused on the “act of exchange” as a way to create dialogue. After being portrayed, each person would exchange the drawing for some sort of information, which could go from sharing personal food habits up to some relevant aspects of the actual situation they live in.



## SMASHING TIMES ORGANIZED WORKSHOPS PRACTICE, THEATER GAMES AND EXERCISES DEDICATED TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH, WELL-BEING AND EQUALITY



**I**n January 2021, Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts and Equality facilitated two theatre-based workshops, one to promote positive mental health and well-being, and one focusing on equality. Fun Theatre-based Workshops on Health and Well-Being On Thursday 21 January, 2021, participants joined us for a fun process of easy-to-use drama and theatre games and exercises. The group explored how to look after their health and well-

being, improve their language skills, make new friends, learn more about Ireland and build confidence in a safe and enjoyable space. The workshop was facilitated by Michael McCabe, with Eimear Burke as counselor.

Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts and Equality and Dublin Castle, Heritage Services of the Office of Public Works, partnered to host an Equality Workshop, which took place online on Saturday 23 January 2021.

99 years have passed since the handover of Dublin Castle on 16 January 1922, when the new Irish state was ceremonial-

ly born in the all too familiar courtyard of Dublin Castle. We made space to consider that moment from our diverse perspectives today, to explore in action processes of intersectionality and equality-building in remembrance and to critically consider how time, place, institutions and memory can be used to build on ideals and values around independence and interdependence. We inspired to take stock of the progress that has been made but also to cast a critical eye on processes that reproduce inequalities.

Smashing Times delivered a fun-based workshop using creative processes of theatre games

and exercises, through which participants explored themes of equality and diversity. The workshop required active participation in games and exercises and provided participants with a quality arts experience, offering them the opportunity to engage with key issues through a creative process and to work together towards building a better future for all. The workshop was facilitated by Jenny MacDonald.

## THE SURREAL CARNIVAL POWERED BY OLTRE LE PAROLE ONLUS

“Oltre le Parole” participates in the project of the Historical Renaissance Carnival in Rome, this year dedicated to the great painter Caravaggio. The event, this year in its 13th edition, was almost entirely conducted online: conferences, exhibitions, short films, history-talk.

The 2021 program, the “Surreal Carnival”, was presented on Thursday 11 February 2021 in the prestigious press room of the Senate of the Italian Republic. The president of Oltre le Parole, Pascal La Delfa, illustrated the activities for schools: The 1600 carnival in Rome: Jubilee year, from Caravaggio to Giordano Bruno. Lessons were spectacularized with audiovisual contri-

butions.

Below is a brief summary of the video interventions:

The 1600s in Rome is characterized by a series of events, which our narrative will connect, privileging the history of the “missed” carnival: the cancellation of the Carnival of that year by Pope Clement VIII and the impossibility for citizens to celebrate it “profanely”, to the advantage of the hundreds of processions of religious orders and pilgrims from all over the world. From this story, the reflection on the history of the Roman Carnival and the parallelism with the impossibility to celebrate in public places of the 2021 Carnival.





# SOCIAL THEATER OPERATORS IN ITALY RECOGNIZE THEMSELVES IN A SINGLE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

**A.** N.T.A.S., the great Italian network of Theater Operators in the Social, renews its activities and relaunches cohesion.

ANTAS started 2021 by reaching over 100 registered members, coming from all Italian regions. ANTAS's goal is to have the profession recognized, to create networks and exchanges of methodology.

In the list of registered members, as well as directors and actors who are experts in conducting artistic activities with disadvantaged people, other professionals can be included such as: educators, psychologists, social workers, and other professionals who use theater as a tool for aggregation, expressi-



veness and relationship.

ANTAS's first objective for 2021 will be to organize online meetings to exchange the experiences of the various operators

with their work groups during the period of stoppage due to the health emergency.

## INCLUSION IS/AS AN OPPORTUNITY

**O**n December 18th, Maria João Mota, on behalf of PELE, participated in the webinar "Inclusion is/as an opportunity. Performative arts and practices between jail and the territory", organised by the Università Cattolica of Milan. PELE was invited to be one of

the speakers, considering its experience in developing artistic projects in prisons over the past 10 years.

The session aimed to discuss some relevant topics concerning the artistic work within the prison context, such as: levels of cooperation between insti-

tutions and artistic facilitators; limits and resources of a new performative practice in the artistic work in prisons; training artistic facilitators in the social area; the impact of performative practices on the inmates' inclusion processes.





# DRAWINGS OF THE SOUL

## BETWEEN ART AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION



Drawing by Leandro, Comunità San Patrignano

**T**his is an interesting example of how art, as well as being an important means of expressing oneself and one's perception of the world and of others, can become a great opportunity for professional training.

Since its foundation, the Community of San Patrignano has published a historic monthly magazine, the SanpaNews, in which issues relating to addiction, youth discomfort and in-depth analysis alternate with life stories directly written by the young people in the community, and each story has its own illu-

stration.

Silvia Mengoli, director of the magazine, has launched a collaboration project with the young people in the community who are passionate about art and drawing, involving them in the creation of the illustrations of the stories and the graphic design of the magazine.

It is very important to involve the young people and help them to understand and also to exploit their own potential. Experiencing that they are capable, that they are able to come up with a project and realize it, be it a drawing or a text, is fundamental to

their recovery process. Because it makes them aware that they are capable of doing well, even in life'.

Some of the young women and men who have taken part in this experience over the years have gone on to undertake related studies or training, becoming graphic designers, authors, social media managers and decorators. And their words, what drawing has represented for them in such a complicated and tiring life time as recovery pathway in the community can be, is the best way to explain it to you:



Drawing by Ruben, Comunità San Patignano



“The more the brush runs across the canvas, the clearer, more transparent, more natural and simpler everything becomes for me. Life is complicated, sometimes a little scary, but drawing

is simple, easy. While the canvas is coloring, I feel safe and comfortable. The rules are clear. Yellow and blue make green, if I put red in the yellow I know orange is coming. It’s easy,

much more so than in life. When the canvas is full, I stand back, look at it and realize that in that colored rectangle there are also ideas, emotions, intuitions. I am represented there. R.

## JOIN THIS COLLECTIVE NARRATIVE

**T**hese pandemic times led us to experience new realities, bringing up the need to register our feelings in our memory. Thus, PELE decided to create a digital archive called Cicatriz (“Scar”), which will gather dozens of testimonies, in order to sew a collective narrative about what we are currently experiencing.

Join this archive by creating a

short video, which may register the impact of this new daily life in our time and memory.

The videos will be shared on the project’s website and they will soon take part in a new participatory creation.



## MARCH 27, 2021: WORLD DAY OF THE THEATRE OLTRE LE PAROLE ONLUS ADHERES TO THE INITIATIVE OF ACCENTO TEATRO IN ROMA CALLED "OFF-AMEN"- TEATRI ACCESI

In these months so perilous for the whole theater sector and more generally for the cultural world, we have lost our social references and habits. The closure of the theaters has not only caused economic damage to artists, technicians, companies and related activities, it has produced a worse damage, an unbridgeable gap in the territory. Little is said about the role that Off theaters play in the territory and in the social fabric, and it is almost never included in the mass media ratings. Often called small theaters, cellars, off rooms, over time they have assumed a more ambitious role to become a bridge to the "beauty", aggregation, knowledge of new arts and artists, especially in those neighborhoods that for characteristics and location have often been forgotten by the various local administrators and / or swallowed up by institutional Theater, those

with a capital T. Over time, the Off theaters have built a cultural alternative that would give the whole neighborhood a hope of life, a possibility of creative development and a landing place.

Hence, here are born laboratories, creative workshops, collectives of innovation and experimentation, readings and everything that was not already approved or too small to be of interest to "adult theaters". Places standing thanks to the passion, dedication and effort of artists, operators, associations that are often forgotten by the various "refunds" or calls. Because a theater is not only the replica of a show, but also exhibitions, meetings, readings, book presentations, amateur or professional workshops, seminars, experiments ...

There are many examples of cultural resistance and transformation all over Italy. This is why that void must be protected today, defended

with every effort. So that we don't forget the very nature that gave birth to them. The Off Theatre is "hungry" to get back on track.

The project at a glance: On March 27th, on the occasion of the World Day of Theatre, a long evening-conference-show will be created in live streaming, with the aim of involving a network of "Off" theaters on the national territory to tell about their initiatives. Artists representing individual theaters will be able to intervene and express their experience of Off Theatre through a monologue, a performance, a story.

And ask for the support, the participation of the public, those "neighbors" who for a year now have found our doors involuntarily closed.

**#Teatriaccesi**

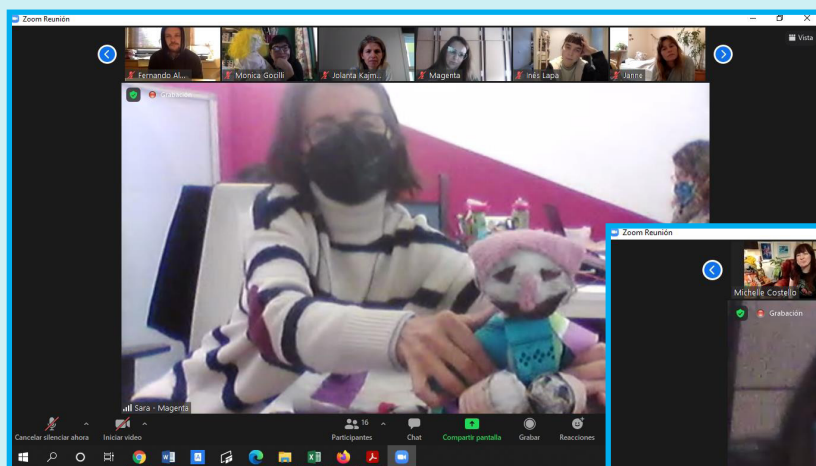




## TRAINING COURSE ON PUPPETS: EX-POST IMPRESSIONS FROM PARTNERS

# ONLINE TRAINING ON PUPPETS THE VOICE OF MAGENTA'S STAFF

A GREAT TIME TO CREATE STRONGER BONDS AMONG ALL OF THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE EVENT AND THAT BELONG TO THE PROJECT



During the month of December 2020, partners from all organisations of the RESTORE project participated in a training event that had to be carried online due to CoVid-19 restrictions in travelling and gatherings. 2 staff members from Magenta's team attended the event, in which they learned how to create puppets with ordinary and common materials that everyone has at home; how to use these puppets to share and communicate a story; and how to extrapolate this knowledge to groups of people at social risk. This was a great opportunity to

expand their knowledge and abilities not only in the development of crafts, but also in how to approach people from certain groups of society, using adapted techniques to achieve their full engagement. It was also a great time to create stronger bonds among all of those who participated in the event and that belong to the project. During the last month of last year

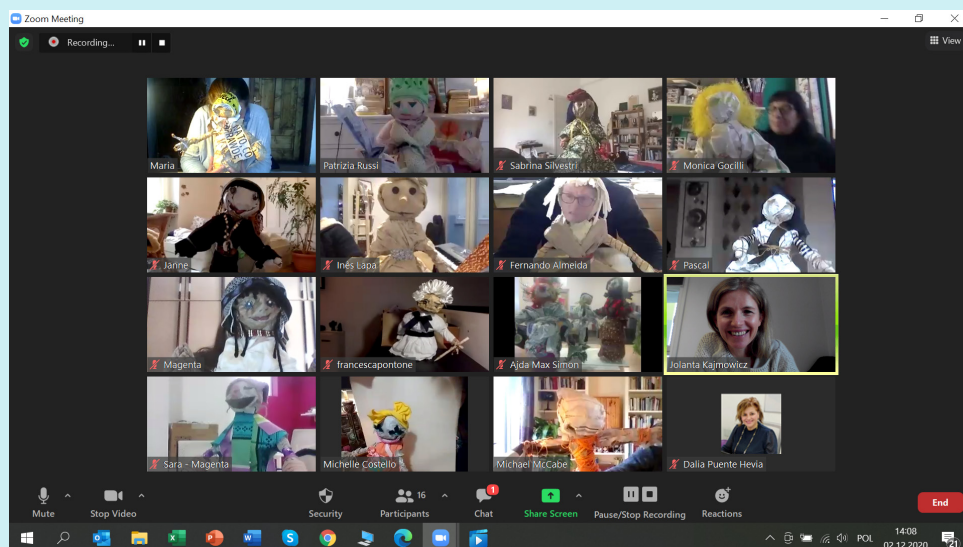
we also took some time to organise future steps in the project, having bilateral meetings with the coordinators of the RESTORE project to make sure that everything was properly closed and that we all knew our role in the following stages.

# BRINGING PAPER ALIVE!

Last December we had the opportunity to participate in the online workshop about “Puppetry art in adult education”, delivered by Grodzki Theatre, one of RE-STORE’s partners.

Here is a testimony by Janne Schröder on her experience as a trainee:

“The transformation of some old newspaper into a puppet, of my own living space into a stage and of objects out of my daily life into props on stage, made me realize the creative potential in each and everything that surrounds us



day by day. New narratives can be created no matter where you are and what you’ve got, and the most interesting and surprising

ones might be found in the most usual or personal space.”

## PUPPETRY ART IN ADULT EDUCATION ON-LINE TRAINING FOR RESTORE TEAM BY TEATR GRODZKI, POLAND

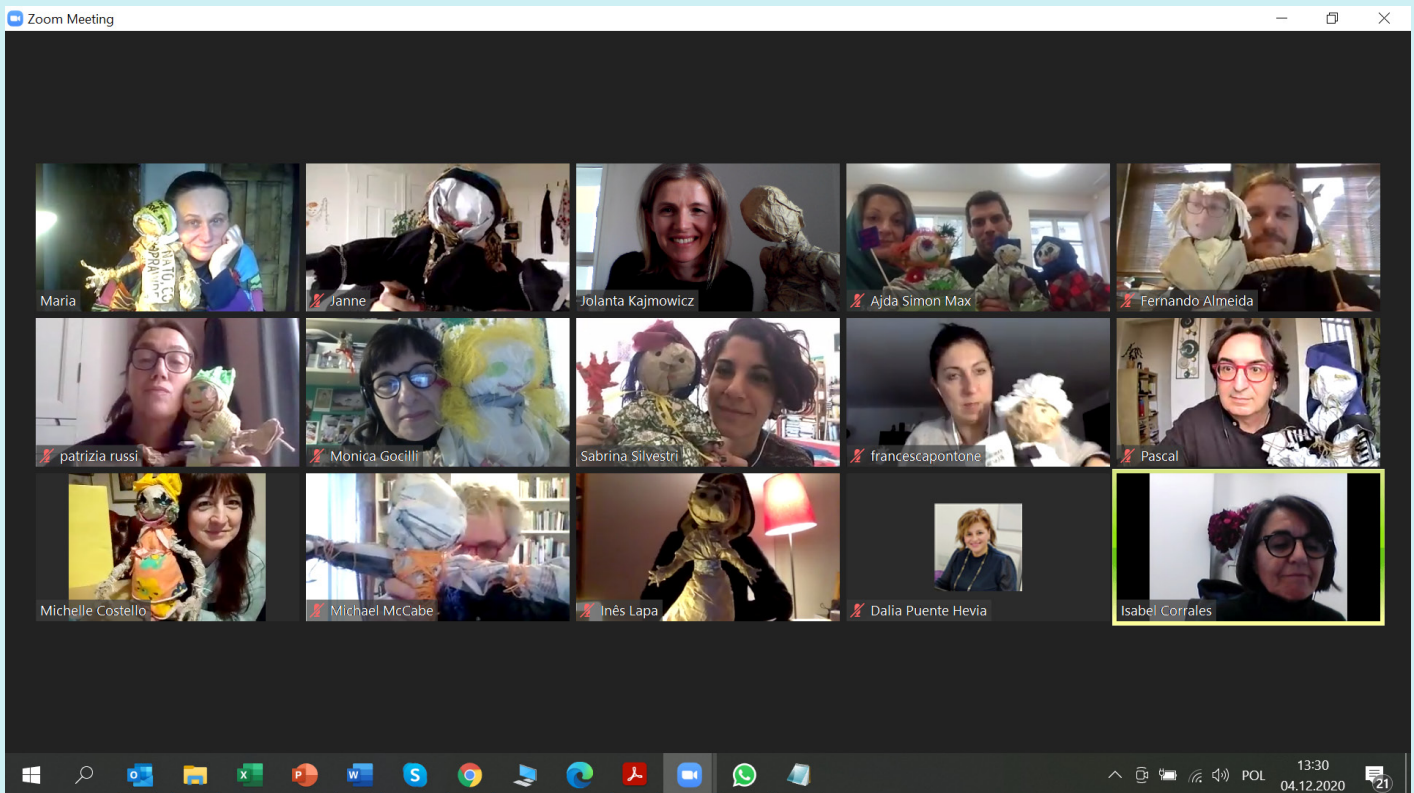
In December 2020, a three-day intensive training for RESTORE partners was carried out in spite of the restrictions and limitations caused by Coronavirus Pandemic. It was possible thanks to the use of ZOOM platform, and the on-line form of the workshop proved to be effective. The main aim of the training was to enable participants using some puppetry techniques as a creative and playful method suitable for supporting vulnerable people in their self-development.

Two trainers from the Polish Artistic Association Grodzki Theatre – Maria Schejbal-Cytawa and Jolanta Kajmowicz-Sopicka invited fifteen workshop participants to create their own paper puppets first, and to experiment with different objects, next. Many personal stories were developed on the way, and participants admitted that working with puppets made them truly involved. A certain amount of time was devoted to group reflection on the work done each day. The statements by

persons taking part in the training are worth quoting, since they show the potential of puppetry art in education and in social theatre. This method is accessible to all. We have a new skill – a tool to use, now.

It is interesting that puppetry combines the simplicity with depth. It is also very entertaining and offers a true satisfaction – the results of work are immediate. This method uses not only brain but also hands and body. It lets us to be taken by the flow of stories.





I could not feel hours passing by. It was good to make my own puppet and to see the work by others. We did not know what to expect but it turned out to be very joyful and spontaneous. I was using my imagination. It is a perfect way of communication. The words are not necessary.

I communicated with my puppet – I connected with the character which represented a real person. The fact that we are using puppets does not mean that we are childish. It surprised me a lot how intuitively I could work, even though I have no experience in that field

and how much I was concentrated. Applicability, fun, creativity, identification. It was interesting to discover the others through their puppets.

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