



Erasmus+



RE.Sto.Re

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

Newsletter N.11 - JULY 2022

Partner organisation

Oltre Le Parole Onlus (Italy)
Comunità San Patrignano (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 Patrignano Scuola e
Formazione (Italy)
Associazione DireFareCambiare (Italy)



NOW RE.STO.RE

Arts for social inclusion

Final event

**International conference,
round tables and social theatre workshop**

Saturday, October 29, 2022

Comunità San Patrignano

Coriano (RN), Italy

For information and booking, please get in touch with us at:

info@restore-project.com



PILOT COURSE IN PORTO SOWING SEEDS.



The first three months of 2022 were filled with an intensive pilot course, carried out by PELE as part of the Re.Sto.Re project. Throughout a great variety of sessions, every weekend a group of 24 trainees had the opportunity to develop their skills as facilitators, experimenting different artistic languages, while acquiring design and project management tools.

The second part of the course started in April, in which the trainees, divided into pairs/trios, started to work directly with 11 social institutions, in order to facilitate collective creation processes. These sessions have been including a wide variety of groups, in terms of age and social context, and they will continue until the end of June.

So far the Re.Sto.Re pilot course has been a very fruitful experience, both for PELE team, the trainees, the hosting partner institutions and, of course, the participants. We look forward to watch all these seeds growing up!



Re.Sto.Re PILOT PROJECT PERFORMANCES IN ITALY

Between May and June 2022, at the end of the training course realised thanks to the project, performances and activities, that each course participant prepared since February, took place in different Italian regions.

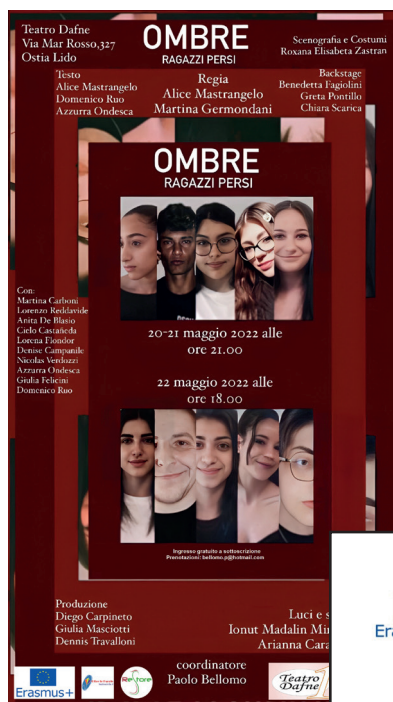
The trainees brought the methodology and message of social theatre to different groups: children, the elderly, people with physical and/or mental disabilities, women victims of violence, foreigners, ex-prisoners and other work groups with different characteristics.

The feedback from the work was sometimes 'classical', with performances in the-

atres or similar venues, and sometimes experimental, such as travelling routes, open rehearsals, video clips, documentaries, etc.

As per the project's objective, the people selected for the Italian Re.Sto. Re course were chosen not only for their competence and motivation, but also for their geographical origin: one of the project's objectives was in fact the multipli-





cability of the Restore method and message. Thus, the activities took place not only in Lazio, where the training course was held, but also in numerous other regions: Calabria, Campania, Marche, Emilia-Romagna, Puglia, and even as far as Germany.

The results of the activities not only benefited the people involved and the entire community, but also served to produce data to be able to compare the work of the S.T.O. at the European level, which are the objective of output 2 of the project. The materials produced - as well as videos, photos, writings - will soon be published on the channels of Re.Sto.Re and Oltre le Parole onlus.



EXPERIENCE MATTERS!

Re.Sto.Re ROUND TABLE IN POLAND

The Bielsko Artistic Association Grodzki Theatre organized their second RESTORE round table in cooperation with the Municipal Public Library in Zdunska Wola (central Poland). The Library was responsible for recruiting participants and thanks to their vast contacts with relevant stakeholders, 34 persons participated in the event on May 11, 2022:

<https://bibliotekazdwola.pl/debata/>

Participants included representatives of the municipal authorities together with the City Mayor and employees of the Social Policy Department, the director of the local Cultural Centre, Occupational Therapy Workshop staff, representatives of the NGO sector, art instructors and academics from the University of Lodz.

The debate on the recognition of the Social Theatre Operator as a distinct professional profile in Poland was conducted by



Malgorzata Starzynska-Majsak, PhD in Theatre Studies. It was centered around the needs of the socially engaged art institutions and individuals, especially in the context of educational and training opportunities available for STOs nowadays. Many debaters were emphasizing the crucial role of experience in the daily work of STOs, gained not only through studies but most of all through job shadowing, internships and participation in various kinds of workshops. Also, the importance of cross-sectoral cooperation was mentioned as a way to solve the problems with financing culture.

The debate was preceded by the presentation of a short puppet play performed by visually impaired persons as an example of art supporting social change and integration. This performance was prepared as part of another Erasmus+ project run by Teatr Grodzki with a view to promote the use of arts and creativity in adult education: "STEP UP PROJECT"

Establishment of a transnational network of adult education providers for the promotion of social inclusion of vulnerable groups" <https://www.stepupart.eu/>

Moreover, the Library held a presentation with lots of images of their rich cultural program for blind people.



LOOKING FOR ANSWERS ON A ROUND TABLE

Last June 2nd, PELE organized in Porto the second round table, in order to find some answers for the 3rd Intellectual Output of the Re.Sto.Re project.

The event was titled “Challenges and opportunities in the certification of the professional profile of the STO” and it ended up being a very interesting conversation on the topic.

The panel of speakers was carefully thoughtful through, in order to have an expert representing the different areas - training, employability, certification. Claire Binyon, who is also part of RESTORE advocacy group, is a theatre divisor and teacher at ESMAE (Porto Music and Theatre university) and she shared her experience with recent graduated theatre students increasingly seeking for other options in

the field of the community artistic practices. Renata Martins, psychologist, was another guest speaker, representing Centro Social de Soutelo, a social institution with a large



experience in hiring arts facilitators as well as creating certified training courses. Isabel Gonçalves, who is an expert trainer and coordinator at IEFP (national institution for professional training and employability) gave precious contributions on how this pilot course could be certified. The conversation was well participated by the audience and it brought interesting thoughts on ways to improve the employability and certification opportunities for these facilitators.



PROJECT ROUNDTABLE Re.Sto.Re ITALY, 28 APRIL 2022.

**Passion and multidisciplinary
brought together to
generate social impact
through social theatre.**

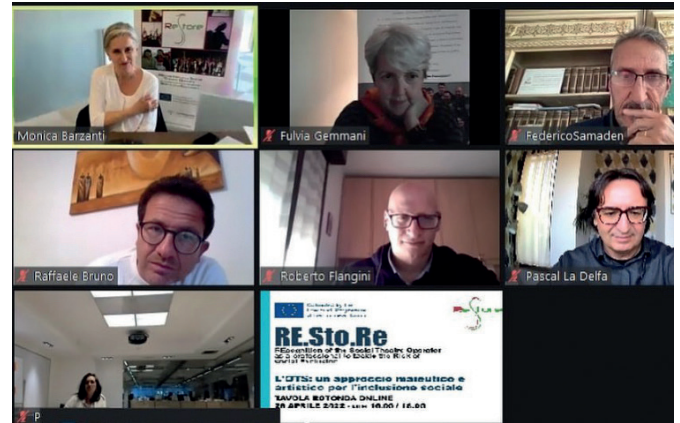
A rich round table, moderated and conducted by Monica Barzanti of San Patrignano, took place online yesterday. The theme was “The STO: a maieutic and artistic approach for social inclusion”.

“The social theatre operator works with the fragilities of people, of all people. It is an investment that will have returns”, this is the working perspective launched by the project leader Pascal La Delfa, which was extensively taken up by Prof. Filippo Giordano. He highlighted how important it is to “measure the social impact” in order to validate the profession and “become actors of positive change”.

Of the creative flow generated by art in prison, but not only of the decrease in recidivism, spoke, moved by the power of the testimony itself, the Hon. Raffaele Bruno, who is working on a bill to include rehabilitation theatre projects in prisons. Moving us to a different setting, the psychologist Roberto Flangini, with a special delicacy, gave us a first-hand account of how much theatre and clowning contribute to self-discovery in paediatric oncology illness and treatment, fostering psychological resilience.

Emiliane Rubat Du Merac, an expert in pedagogy and related disciplines, enthusiastically shared her thoughts on ‘talent’ and ‘skills’, from which a training and evaluation programme was born, currently underway at La Sapienza University in Rome: the Open-Badge.

The passionate contribution of Federico Samaden, who has been dedicated for



years to what he calls “growing lives”, as well as to the management of scholastic and professional contexts, confirmed how over the years he has touched upon the “educational power” of theatre, from a generative welfare perspective.

Stefano Tè, director and artistic director of Teatro dei Venti, invited us to “reflect on ourselves, on how we have the skills to play an important role in this society” and on how “unconventional, less protected and safeguarded places” are interesting for him “where I have to tune in, listen, where I can affirm my vocation”.

Fulvia Gemmani, with dedication and competence, introduced us to the world of training and accredited bodies, highlighting what steps need to be taken for the recognition of professions.

Last but not least, Dr Francesca Bergamini, the competent voice of the Emilia Romagna Region, on the strength of the testimonies collected and the impact generated in the various spheres, suggested that we try to imagine a ‘role played in a broader context’, precisely because of the importance of the comparison between different worlds.

In order to continue the work, we made an appointment on 29 October for the final event of the Re.Sto.Re Project, in San Patrignano.

A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

S mashing Times were delighted to perform *The Art of W/Rights* engaging with the unique historical setting of Pearse Museum and St Enda's Park. Smashing Times presented stories of people from Irish history, with links to the area of Rathfarnham, who spoke out for the rights of others.

This walk-in-the-park performance regaled audiences with storytelling, poetry and song. The play reflects on the lives of Robert Emmet and Sarah Curran; William Butler Yeats and the Pearse Women. A Walk on the Wild Side features:

A Beauty That Will Pass written and directed by Mary Moynihan performed by Michael McCabe, is a poetical response to the love story of Sarah Curran (1782-1808) and Robert Emmet (1778-1803) interwoven with reference to John Philpot Curran (1750-1817) and Padraig Pearse (1879-1916).

Tales from an Afterworld by Féilim James, directed by Geraldine McAlinden, performed by Rob Harrington, a reflection on the life and work of writer William Butler Yeats (1865-1939). Born in Dublin in 1865, William Butler Yeats was the son of a well-known Irish painter, John Butler Yeats. He spent his childhood in County Sligo, where his parents were raised, and in London. He returned to Dublin at fifteen to continue his education and study painting, but quickly discovered he preferred poetry. Born into the Anglo-Irish landowning class, Yeats became involved with the Celtic Revival, a movement against the cultural influences of English rule in Ireland during the Victorian period, which sought to promote the spirit of Ireland's native heritage. Yeats was deeply involved in politics in Ireland.

He also had a life-long interest in mysticism and the occult, and his work drew extensively from sources in Irish mythology and folklore. Lady Gregory and Yeats founded the Abbey Theatre in 1904. Yeats was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1923 and died in 1939 age seventy-three.

The Pearse Women, a presentation scripted by Dr Sinead McCool, historian, inspired by the life-stories of Mrs Margaret (Brady) Pearse (1857-1932), Politician and Dáil Deputy; Margaret Mary Pearse (1878-1968), teacher, TD and Senator and Mary Brigid Pearse (1884-1947), musician, teacher and author; linked to objects in the Pearse Museum collection, exploring the role these women played in shaping Irish society and their relevance to a diverse Ireland today.

An Ród Seo Romhainn, an Irish poem written by Áine Ní Ghlinn, a bilingual Irish journalist, poet, playwright and children's writer and current Arts Council Laureate na nÓg, 2020-2023, the first to write exclusively in Irish. The poem is inspired by the two tea-cups on display in the Pearse Museum, left out by the mother of Padraig and Willie Pearse, before her two sons went to join the Rising in 1916.

Performances and talks linked by music performed by Lisa McLoughlin-Gnemmi.

The Art of W/Rights is an outdoor performing arts spectacle by Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts and Equality featuring site-specific outdoor shows and Walks in the Park combining theatre, film, literary pop-up installations and creative conversations, promoting equality, compassion, and human rights in changing times. The Art of W/Rights partners are

Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts and Equality, Irish Modern Dance Theatre, South Dublin County Council Arts Office, Rathfarnham Castle, Pearse Museum and the Office of Public Works – Rathfarnham Castle Park and St Enda's Park. The Art of W/Rights is supported by the Arts Council In the Open | Faoin Speir, South Dublin County Council Arts Office, the Creative Ireland programme of South Dublin, Erasmus+ and the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme (CERV). The programme generates a celebration of literature, visual and performing arts and

discussion on key themes of equality, compassion and rights in changing times.

Read our audience feedback here:

<https://smashingtimes.ie/audience-feedback-from-the-art-of-w-rights/>

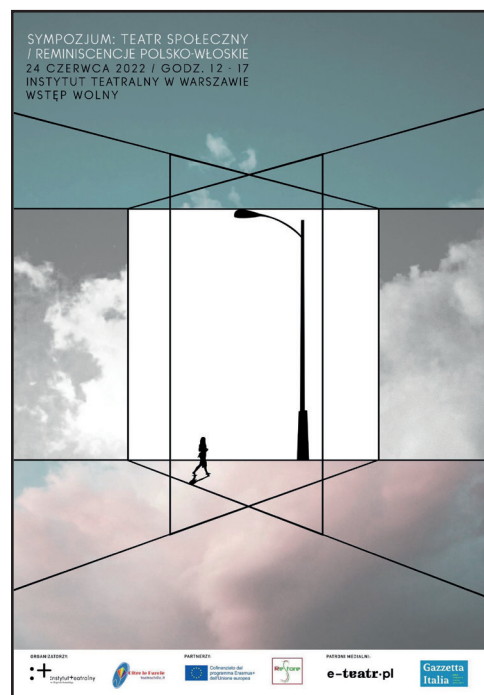


BEYOND WAR, BEYOND WORDS.

On the occasion of the last meeting of the project partners, which will be held in Poland at Bielsko Biala (Teatr Grodzki headquarters), Oltre le Parole launched an initiative to strengthen the partnership between the two countries (Italy and Poland) and put into practice the very objectives of the Restore project. Some Italian professionals, thanks to the availability and collaborative spirit of Magdalena Zelent (a Polish director who lives in Italy and has attended Oltre le Parole's training courses in the past), will carry out some activities in the city of Warsaw in the week from 20 to 24 June. During the first four days of the week, Italian and Polish professionals will work together in two elementary schools in the city, with the aim of experiencing Social and Community Theatre activities with children and teachers: not only Polish children, but also those from other countries, as well as new involuntary guests from Ukraine. A concrete opportunity to express

themselves, get to know each other, connect. On 24 June, professionals from Oltre le Parole and Polish experts will meet

at the prestigious Zbigniew Raszewski Theatre Institute in Warsaw, to discuss issues related to social and community theatre. They will talk about the 'Re.Sto.Re' project and Oltre le Parole's initiatives in the field of research, methodology and the attempt to network in Europe on the matter. We will give feedback on the activities in the next issue of the newsletter.



AS BRAVAS ARE OUT THERE!



After its debut last September in Porto, during MEXE festival, “AS BRAVAS: um manifesto” will invade the streets of Amarante, one of the cities where PELE has been developing community artistic projects since 2012. The show will take place on Sunday June

11th and it will involve 60 participants, aging from 12 to 85.

This performative-sound walk guides the audience throughout a feminine cartography, while occupying the public space and making visible the female daily struggles. The walk is guided by a Manifest, collectively written by the project participants, and which reveals invisibilities and calls out for urgent changes regarding gender equality. The arrival point is an photography exhibition and an immersive installation, created from a sound and visual archive that arose from the artistic process carried out with several community groups over the past 4 years, both in Porto and Amarante.



ONE YEAR OF CAM-ON

The first year of piloting of the 'Cam-On' project, the website dedicated to children hospitalised in the paediatric haematology-oncology ward of the hospital in Nocera Inferiore (Salerno), is coming to an end these days. The pilot programme created during the lockdown period of the pandemic was conceived and implemented

by Oltre le Parole onlus thanks to the support of the Fondazione Terzo Pilastro Internazionale, and the collaboration of important local organisations. An interactive

website where children can not only access content dedicated to them, but can also book a video call (under the control and at the request of their parents) with

the association's 'play-doctors', who have helped to alleviate the most difficult moments of isolation in hospital, especially during the very long lockdown period in which all extra-medical hospital activities were completely suspended (some of which have now been reinstated).

The 'Crescere Insieme Oltre il Teatro' school in Mercato San Severino, under the leadership of Clotilde Grisolia, and other 'friends' who voluntarily contributed to the success of

the project, gave important support to the project. If you are curious to read about the project, have a look at www.cam-on.it



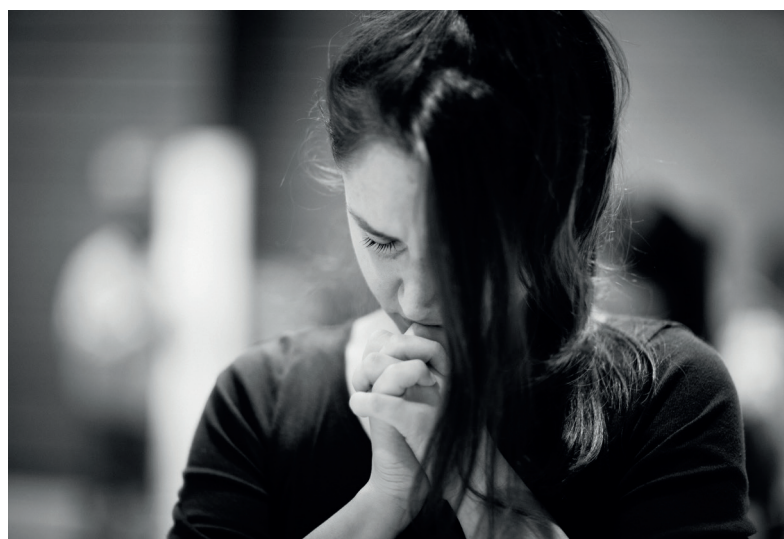
VOICES FROM SANPATRIGNANO. LAURA AND THE THEATRE

I will miss this group very much, the work we have done together over these months has been very important for me. You have been my mirror, with you and thanks to the theater I have been able to see things about myself that I did not know and above all I have understood that I can be accepted even with my limits. I will really miss all of this but now, I have to go home!'.

the hope that one day they too will achieve this important goal.



Laura is one of the girls of the San Patrignano Theater Company and tomorrow, she goes home. After taking back her life, this young woman concludes her recovery journey and returns to her life as a woman and mother, as a person free from all forms of addiction. The young people of the theater group said goodbye to her yesterday and in their eyes, besides a touch of melancholy,



CREATIVE ECO-CENTRE



Mary Moynihan met with Vanessa Ogida earlier this month to discuss progress on the Creative Eco-Centre project.

Vanessa has been working with students from Nigeria, creating vision boards for the future and brainstorming ideas for what a Creative Eco-Centre should comprise of. Smashing Times are working with four schools in Ireland and four schools in Nigeria as part of the project, which uses creative processes, new digital technologies and social media activism to engage the students in the collaborative design of a Creative Eco-Centre, exploring and promoting global citizenship education and climate justice linked to human rights.

The project is funded by Concern and Irish Aid. Learn more here:

<https://smashingtimes.ie/projects/creative-eco-centre-for-climate-justice-and-human-rights/>



SMASHINGTIMES
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
THE ARTS & EQUALITY

WE ARE AT SCHOOL AGAIN!

Over the past few months, Oltre le Parole has carried out numerous activities dedicated especially to young students in schools of all levels, with the aim of developing socialisation and artistic expression activities to challenge and overcome the difficult period experienced by young people following the pandemic event.

First of all, the Erasmus Plus project 'The face behind the mask', in which our association is involved together with the Italian 'Rebike alter-mobility', some primary schools in Rome and other partners from Spain and Wales. A series of activities carried out within schools on the theme of post-pandemic resocialisation, thanks to the play of theatre and aggregative and artistic techniques. The project will last another year and will involve, in addition to the students, primary school teachers and theatre professionals who will exchange their respective practices of aggregation and expressiveness in favor of the school. After the meeting in Spain last May, the next appointment will be in Wales.

In addition to the Italian capital of Rome, our activities have also moved to the



north and south of Italy. In the province of Trento, near the Dolomites, with the 'School-not-School' project dedicated to young people at risk of dropping out of school. In the provinces of Catania and Enna, near the volcano Mount Etna, with the project 'In-dipendenti: la mia vita non è un gioco' ('In-dependent: my life is not a game'), whose aim was to draw attention to addiction, particularly gambling.



by the editorial team

BREAKING NEWS

POLAND RE.STO.RE PROJECT AND GRODZKI THEATRE.
BIELSKO BIALA 22-23 JUNE 2022. REPORTAGE OF A PULSING LIFE
By Monica Gocilli



What one can breathe at Teatr Grodzki in Bielsko Biala, is an exceptional normality in which everything is possible, embracing differences and producing art, supporting people in their journey, all of that experienced in a living and impactful local community.

partners of the project, to continue our work on the definition and recognition of the figure of the Social Theatre Operator. In particular, we took stock of the state of the art of the production of the reference manual and analysed the impact of the pilot courses, as well as establishing the validation and certification of the professional figure of reference, and laying the groundwork for the communication of the Final Event of the “Now Re.Sto.Re” project to be held in San Patrignano - Rimini, Italy, on October 29.

The morning of the second day saw two very important moments. The first one was a Treasure Hunt for the



and warmth of all the people I met, it is an experience I have treasured ever since I returned to Milan.

During the first day, we met with the European





project partners, i.e. an in-depth tour of Teatr Grodzki's structure with its numerous departments of graphics, sewing, production of hand-made items, and puppet creation. The second, a workshop entitled "By making mistakes, you learn" which I had the pleasure of leading together

with Pascal La Delfa of Oltre le Parole onlus, the project leader, aimed at the operators, from different professional

backgrounds, who gravitate around Teatr Grodzki.

We worked from the positive pedagogy of errors, in a game dynamic where a self-narrative takes shape and where it is possible to look at one's mistakes from a constructive point of view. Playing with mistakes is a powerful tool for internalising the

error and correcting it. But not only that.

Viewing the error as an opportunity for growth and self-knowledge lays the foundations for greater awareness of the effectiveness and potential of creative tools and languages.

In the afternoon, after the inauguration of the new theatre space, in the presence of the authorities, an important round table was held on the theme of "integrated theatre and the figure of the Social Theatre Operator" open to the centre's guests and citizens, followed by the presentation of some interesting and exciting social theatre works by the staff of Teatr Grodzki.

Among them, Maria's fabulous puppets have been telling the story of wars also using sign language. A theatre of integration, inclusion, highly professional, emotionally engaging, as social theatre is.

We all really need it.

BREAKING NEWS

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