



idea
AUSTRIA



**Demonstrating
Democracy**
*Demonstrating (with) Drama!
Dialogue & Call for ACT.ION*

EVENT PROGRAM

27. March • Friday

15:00 **Check in**

18:00 **Opening**

18:30 **Conference Dinner**
Bring a typical poem or a song from your country.

28. March · Saturday



7:30 **Breakfast**

10:00 **LOVE WORK MACHINE**

11:30 **Discussion**

12:30 **Lunch**

14:00 **Mini-Workshops · PART 1**
registration in advance

16:00 **Coffee Break**

16:30 **Mini-Workshops · PART 2**
registration in advance

18:30 **Dinner**

19:30 **The Power of Networking**

Mini-Workshops • PART 1

Harald Volker Sommer

Building Democracy: Collective Creativity in the
Theatral Chorus

Anniki Scheu

Speak up and shine

Yohan Diaz de Begar

Eye fish

Mini Workshops • PART 2

Eva Göksel

Presencing Spaces: How do we co-create sustainable
togetherness?

Katherina Zarnikova

Creative synergy: Embodying support

Nada Rumanovska Uherova

Teacher Training and Professional Growth

29. March • Sunday

GROUP 1 • Stephen Wei

GROUP 2 • Erika Piazzoli

GROUP 3 • Richard Finch

7:30 Breakfast

9:15 Warm Up

10:00 MAIN WORKSHOP • PART 1
3 Groups

12:30 Lunch

15:00 MAIN WORKSHOP • PART 2
3 Groups

18:30 Dinner

19:30 Presentation
Joke Quakebeur - Louder Together

20:00 Power of Networking
Meet me at the DRAMA BAR

30. March • Monday

GROUP 1 • Richard Finch

GROUP 2 • Stephen Wei

GROUP 3 • Erika Piazzoli

7:30 Breakfast

9:15 Warm Up

10:00 MAIN WORKSHOP • PART 3
3 Groups

12:30 Lunch

15:00 MAIN WORKSHOP • PART 4
3 Groups

18:30 Dinner

19:30 Presentation
Simon Isser - UN-Kinderrechte "Kulturelle Teilhabe"

20:00 Power of Networking
Meet me at the DRAMA BAR

31. March • Tuesday

GROUP 1 • Erika Piazzoli

GROUP 2 • Richard Finch

GROUP 3 • Stephen Wei

7:30 Breakfast

9:15 Warm Up

10:00 MAIN WORKSHOP • PART 5
3 Groups

12:30 Lunch

15:00 MAIN WORKSHOP • PART 6
3 Groups

18:00 Wine Tasting

18:30 Dinner

19:30 Discussion & Feedback

20:00 Power of Networking
Meet me at the DRAMA BAR

1. April · Wednesday

7:30 Breakfast

9:00 Check Out

10:30 Surprise

12:30 Lunch

13:00 Goodbye & Farewell



**Next Conference –
DRAMA / THEATRE IN
EDUCATION
Freitag, 7. April bis
Mittwoch, 12. April
2028**

Main Workshop Instructors

Thirty Birds - One Flight



Dr. Erika Piazzoli is an Associate Prof in Arts Education, School of Education, Trinity College Dublin, where she chairs the Arts in Education Research Group (AERG). Erika is the course director of the Master in Education (M.Ed.), and teaches Drama in Education, Arts-based Research and Embodied Learning on the programme. She has practiced process drama, actor voice training, Butoh and cello for 18 years, and currently supervises eight doctoral students.

Pathways to Democracy



Dr. Richard Finch now resides in South Africa, having relocated from the UK in 2012. He gained the first degree in Drama and Theatre in Education at the University of London in the 1960's and has taught Drama in Schools and at Universities of Birmingham and Namibia. He continues to facilitate Professional Development Training of Teachers in South Africa and in a number of African and European countries.

Devising Theatre for a Just Society



Stephen Wei is a drama teacher with 27 years of classroom experience. He has given numerous workshops on technical theatre, drama in education, assessment and evaluation, and improvisation in Ontario, Canada for theatre festival teacher events, universities, and school boards. He has served on the board for the Council of Ontario Drama and Dance Education acting as the communications officer and by writing curriculum support.

Thirty Birds - One Flight

This workshop engages participants in a process drama exploring the theme of democracy through the myth of the Simurgh. The pre-text is the Persian legend of the Simurgh, as narrated in *The Conference of the Birds*. In the story, the creatures of the air struggle to agree on a leader who might guide them through a world of uncertainty. Together they embark on a journey, each bird carrying its own doubts, dreams, and fears. Only after crossing seven valleys of trial do they discover that the Simurgh is not a single ruler, but the reflection of themselves.

This workshop invites participants to step into the realm of legend to explore what democracy might mean today - framing leadership, wisdom and power as collective, rather than singular. The metaphor opens a space to reflect on democracy not only as voting or governance, but as collective responsibility: the fragile art of living together, sharing resources, and listening across difference. Like the birds, we ask: who is heard, and who is silenced? What must we let go of to imagine a more open, just world?

Through improvisation, soundscape, movement and collective reflection, participants will inhabit and extend the story, confronting obstacles and discovering how unity can emerge from diversity. In today's world - shadowed by conflict, war and displacement - this workshop offers one example of how drama can become a space to enact democracy as a lived, participatory practice.

Storytelling and Drama: Pathways to Democracy

African Oral Literature such as Proverbs, Folktales and Poetry suggest that pre colonial societies used these rich cultural art forms to demonstrate the need for democracy and good governance. African Folk Tales are a rich resource for Teachers to use, as a means through drama, to explore human rights and democracy.

My practical approach with those who attend the Congress will provide material and a methodology that can be adapted and used with children of all ages.

Attending the Conference in 2026 will be one of many stimulating times I have experienced, working with Teachers in Austria. Building Bridges and Provoking Dialogue towards Peace and Understanding.

Devising Theatre for a Just Society

In this workshop, participants will explore power, privilege, and status using games, improv, and other activities to make abstract ideas tangible. From there they will use concepts from Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed to generate performances that will use a variety of choreographic structures and movement techniques drawn from a variety of theatre and dance practitioners.

Participants will also build short pieces of work that explore issues of gaslighting and consent based on performances the workshop presenter had made with students in an act of protest at his own school as part of an extracurricular performance.

Participants will leave with more tools for their own work interpreting text and themes in their classrooms and after-school arts clubs.