

PERFORMANCE OF A NEWSLETTER

The Online Monthly Newsletter of the East Side
Institute

Issue #31, May 21, 2007

Editors: Janet Wootten / Christine Helm

* * * * *

Psychology News to Inspire and Use SCENE AND
HEARD *Wow, I just saw you in such a different way!
You are really magnificent at this 'pouter
performance.'* You are such an unbelievable pouter!
Truly excellent. We've got to figure out how to use
that! --Second-grade teacher trying out a new
performance with her (now-smiling) student. [see:
unscriptedlearning.blogspot.com]

CONFERENCES

Holzman Explores "Loss of Self" in Norway

Lois Holzman traveled to Agder University College in
Grimstad, Norway May 10-12 as an invited presenter at
a symposium sponsored by the Distributed Language
Group, entitled, "Language Dynamics and the
Phenomenology of Individual Experience." The symposium
brought together theoreticians and researchers from
eight countries who are interested in the cognitive
dynamics of language as a "distributed phenomenon" -
i.e., one that connects body, brain and world.
Participants represented a range of disciplines
including linguistics, consciousness studies,
neuropsychology and infant studies.

Lois delivered a paper entitled, "How much of a loss
is the loss of self: Understanding Vygotsky from a
Social Therapeutic Perspective and Vice Versa" in
which she introduced the possibility of an alternative
to the "self / other" dichotomy: i.e., the
collective.

***Lobman Gets Playful at Conference in Rochester,
NY***

Institute faculty member Carrie Lobman, Assistant Professor of Education at the Graduate School of Education, Rutgers University and director of the Institute's Developing Teachers Fellowship Program, presented on her work with public school teachers and the use of improv in the classroom at the "Play Matters" conference at the Strong Museum National Museum of Play in Rochester which convened April 25-28. Her full-hour presentation included some playful warm-ups ("The Emotional Bus" and "Yes, and" games). The conference was sponsored by The Association for the Study of Play (TASP) and the International Play Association.

Other presenters included 2007 Psych Out award recipient and play theorist, Ana Marjanovic-Shane, as well as Fraser Brown, who does play work with orphans in Romania.

***Silverman, Wolfe and Massad Present at Yeshiva's Social Work Conference ***

Institute staff members Barbara Silverman, Baylah Wolfe and Susan Massad were presenters at the recent Yeshiva University social work conference: "Celebrating a Tradition of Caring: Social Work Practice, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," held in Manhattan, May 6-8. The conference engaged broad topics in the field ranging from "Group Therapy for 9/11 Latina Widows," "African-American Therapists' Views on Strategies for Strengthening Families," and "Domestic Violence in the Orthodox Jewish Community" to "Poverty, Women, and HIV," "The Gray Areas of Caregiver Neglect," "The Impact of the U.S. Travel Policy on Cuban-American Families," and "Reflections on Hurricane Katrina by Older Adults."

Baylah, a retired oncology social worker and therapist at the Brooklyn Social Therapy Group, presented on "Creating Effective Healthcare Solutions: A Philosophical and Performatory Approach to Strength-Based Practice with Patients and Families." Susan, an

internist with a private medical practice in Brooklyn, discussed "Performing Conversation with Medical Patients." Barbara Silverman presented on "Resiliency and Relationality: The Benefit of Group for Teens," which reported on her work as coordinator of the mental health component of the Erasmus Student Health Center at Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn.

TRAINING

*** Therapists Gather for Weekend Intensive Training***

Nineteen therapists from Atlanta, Boston, New York, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Toronto, Washington DC, and Oslo, Norway attended a two-day weekend intensive training led by director of the Therapist Training Program Christine La Cerva. Institute director Lois Holzman, philosopher-in-residence Chris Helm and director of the Manhattan Social Therapy Group Matt Lundquist led sessions during the weekend, themed "The Patient as Revolutionary." ***I Hate Math!*** Matt Lundquist, Lois Holzman and University of London math educator Mike Askew led an "I Hate Math!" pilot workshop on May 7. Attendees included people intimidated by numbers and at least one math teacher.

Matt kicked off the workshop with a special mathematical version of the classic improv game, "Zip-Zap-Zop." The ensuing conversation touched upon the relationship between emotionality and learning, subjective responses to math (e.g., the eponymous hatred, defensiveness and humiliation), the differences between arithmetic and mathematics, and the historical origins of 360 degrees.

FUNDRAISING

About a dozen parties and performance events are in the works to introduce new friends to the Institute and to help raise funds for Performing the World 4: The Performance of Community and the Community of Performance. The Saratoga Social Therapy Group hosted the first on March 10. David Belmont and Sue Davies hosted an evening of musical performance on May 11 at a friend's recording studio. David and his friends played, and there was a short speaking program, featuring presentations on the Institute's international work by Susan Massad and Joan Mahon-Powell.

Other parties are planned over the summer months in NYC, Boston, Atlanta and San Francisco.

PUBLICATIONS

Tom Vasiliades Wins Kudos "Backstage"

Alexander Technique trainer and Institute staff member Tom Vasiliades was featured in an article, Alexander Technique for Actors, which appeared in the trade publication Backstage on May 3. Vasiliades discusses how his method relates to performers holistically: "Let's say you see a performer on stage and his right shoulder appears to be up by his ear. Why doesn't someone just tell him to put his shoulder down, you might wonder. But telling him to do that wouldn't necessarily be helpful to him, because he will then try to force his shoulder down. And that forcing will simply create another kind of problem." ***Unscripted Blogging!*** Carrie Lobman and Matt Lundquist's new book of improv -- "Unscripted Learning: Using Improv Activities Across the K-8 Curriculum" - makes its debut June 1. But you can visit Carrie and Matt's official "Unscripted Learning" blog at unscriptedlearning.blogspot.com and join the conversations on team building, performing new classroom conversations, "I Hate Math," improv games, and Carrie's report from the "Play Matters" conference.

Save the date for the book-launch party, Saturday, June 9, from 1:00-2:30 pm at the Institute. Get the book, have it autographed and toast the authors. *** What's New on ESI.org?*** Under "New Talks and Articles to Read," check out Carrie Lobman's paper - presented to the American Educational Research Association in Chicago: "The Developing Teachers Fellowship Program: Exploring the Use of Improv Theatre for the Professional Development of Inner City Teachers."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Importance of Groups for Growing Kids

A workshop with Christine La Cerva
Saturday, June 2 11:00am-1:00pm
Fee: \$35 [Register Now](#)

Performatory Learning: Good News Stories from NYC Schools

A panel discussion with public school teachers, led by Carrie Lobman and Matt Lundquist
Saturday, June 9 11 AM -- 1 PM
Fee: \$25 [Register Now](#)

Book Signing and Reception

Come toast the authors: Carrie Lobman and Matt Lundquist *Unscripted Learning: Using Improv Activities Across the K-8 Classroom*
Saturday, June 9 1:00-2:30 pm
Immediately following NYC School panel discussion

The 2006-2007 International Class Residency

June 5- 17

Graduation Day at the East Side Institute!

Sunday, June 17
The International Class
Therapist Training Program

Another Look At Attraction

A seminar with Fred Newman Sunday, June 24 2:30-4:00pm Fashion Institute of Technology, Building D, D207 Fee: \$55 in advance/ \$65 at the door

[Register Now](#)

Performing the World 4

Friday, October 12- Sunday, October 14, 2007

The 2007-2008 International Class Residency

October 15-20