

PERFORMANCE OF A NEWSLETTER  
The Online Newsletter of the East Side Institute  
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Compiled by Melissa Meyer

SCENE AND HEARD

"It's a life history of intertwined relationships, projects and communities in which Vygotsky plays a key role. But mostly, it is my story of bringing Vygotsky from the scientific laboratory to ordinary people and their communities, and of what I and others have created with him."

Lois Holzman on the forthcoming Vygotsky at Work and Play (Routledge, 2008).

INTERNATIONAL

\*\*\* Learning and development in the Balkans \*\*\*

Institute director, Lois Holzman traveled to Serbia in December to participate in the Annual Meetings of Zdravo da ste, an NGO founded in 1992 by a group of developmental psychologists from Belgrade and with which the Institute has had a 10-year relationship. The meeting included a dance performance created by Zdravo da ste youth, and a panel on learning for development, which included several international guests in addition to Holzman.

\*\*\* Betsi Pendry hosts All Stars youth contingent in South Africa \*\*\*

Institute associate and International Class alumna Betsi Pendry hosted an All Stars Project youth contingent led by Director of Youth Programs, Pam Lewis.

Pam and three young people traveled to Johannesburg, South Africa, March 18, to participate with South African young people in the Democracy Begins in Conversation Project. As part of the conversation, the All Stars team participated in a camp for 50 Christian, Muslim, and Hindu youth in the suburb of Hekpoort and produce a community-wide talent show. The South African and American young people will meet again in NYC in October for Performing the World '08.

\*\*\* Holzman invited to strategy meetings of Int'l Vygotsky Society \*\*\*

Lois Holzman has been invited by the International Vygotsky Society to Moscow this summer to help develop strategies for international cooperation among Vygotskian scholars. Topics to be addressed include: international collaborations and projects;

conferences; and the publication of a new edition of Vygotsky's collected works, including some newly discovered archival documents.

## CONFERENCES

\*\*\* April 1 proposal deadline approaches for PTW '08 \*\*\*

With the deadline of April 1 fast approaching, proposals are beginning to stream in for Performing the World 2008: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow, the international conference/festival for performance activists planned for October 2-5 in NYC and sponsored by the Institute and the All Stars Project.

\*\*\* Lobman discusses improvisation at Assoc. for Study of Play \*\*\*

Institute faculty member and Rutgers University professor, Carrie Lobman presented her research at The Association for the Study of Play's 34th International Conference in Tempe, Arizona, March 5-8. Lobman and colleague Tony Perone, from the University of Illinois at Chicago, led a workshop entitled, Playing Together: The Importance of Improvisation for Human Development Across the Lifespan.

\*\*\* Lundquist addresses Dyslexia Conference in NYC \*\*\*

On March 7, Institute faculty and Manhattan Social Therapy Group director Matt Lundquist spoke at the 35th Annual Conference on Dyslexia and Other Related Disabilities in NYC. In his session entitled "Because Learning is Emotional" Lundquist commented, "While finding the best research-based approach is critical, too little emphasis is placed on how we support learning, which is fundamentally a relational and emotional activity."

\*\*\* Institute hosts pre-conference meetings of AERA SIG \*\*\*

On March 23, the Institute and the Cultural Historical Research Special Interest Group of the American Educational Research Association hosted a workshop entitled, "Cultural Historical Perspectives on Play, Imagination, Creativity in Development and Learning."

The forty participants in attendance included the following as faculty: the Institute's Lois Holzman and Carrie Lobman; Michael Cole (University of California at San Diego); Beth Ferholt (UCSD); Artin Goncu (University of Illinois); Elina Lampert-Shepel (Mercy College); Ana Marjanovic-Shane (Cultural Educational Center "Zmaj"); Kevin O'Connor (University of Rochester); and Anna Stetsenko (CUNY Graduate Center).

\*\*\* Lobman presents research on team building at AERA in NYC \*\*\*

Carrie Lobman presented her research on using team building and team play to lower test anxiety at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meetings in NYC

March 26. Over the past year, Lobman has observed the impact of team-play programs in Brooklyn elementary schools.

## TRAINING

\*\*\* Fourth International Class convenes for second residency \*\*\*

The International Class met in NYC February 23-29 for its second residency. The 11 students attended seminars on the fundamentals of the Institute's activity theoretic / performance approach and its various applications. Students worked with faculty members, Lois Holzman, Fred Newman, Christine LaCerva, Carrie Lobman, Gwen Lowenheim, Joan Mahon-Powell, Chris Helm and Esther Farmer. Special-guest seminar leaders included Pam Lewis, national producer of youth programs for the All Stars Project, Dan Friedman artistic director of Youth Onstage, and Michael Rock, a trainer with Performance of a Lifetime.

In addition to seminars and visits to community-based programs, participants observed social therapy groups and met with director of training Christine LaCerva and other social therapists.

\*\*\* South African psychologist trains as Social Therapist \*\*\*

Annalie Pistorius, a graduate of the 2005-6 International Class and a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychology at Medical University of Southern Africa, has developed a training course with the Institute to train as a social therapist. Annalie will be in NYC for three residencies, which will include clinical supervision, group observation, and seminars in philosophy and methodology.

\*\*\* Developing Teachers explore performance-based learning \*\*\*

The Developing Teachers Fellowship Program - now in its second year - is moving forward in its mission of supporting public school teachers to develop. The nine participants in the 2007/8 class teach in public schools in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Harlem, Washington Heights, the Village and New Jersey. They meet every-other-week with the program's director, Carrie Lobman to advance their skills in building groups and using performance and improvisation in their classrooms.

## CLASSES / WORKSHOPS

\*\*\* Newman seminar engages developmental power of pointlessness \*\*\*

On March 16, Institute co-founder Fred Newman led a seminar on Pointless Activity, Creativity and Revolution at the Fashion Institute of Technology. The lecture drew a diverse crowd of 160 people, who are interested in Newman's work in the therapeutic,

cultural and/or independent political arenas. Newman discussed the developmental possibilities of "creative, pointless activity," (e.g., writing a play) and how engaging in it daily helps us access our capacity to create something out of nothing.

\*\*\* Holzman online seminar fosters dialogue on development \*\*\*

Holzman's recent online seminar, "Dialogues on and for Development," drew 29 participants from eight countries and across the US. The text for the class and springboard for conversation were selected dialogues from Psychological Investigations: A Clinician's Guide to Social Therapy.

\*\*\* Students advance as writers/thinkers in "Learning Group" \*\*\*

In January and February, Holzman convened her monthly "learning group" that now includes seven students variously working on advancing as writers, thinkers and researchers in unexpected and creative ways. The open-ended group welcomes new members, although a two-session commitment is required.

## FUNDRAISING

\*\*\* Spring Community Meeting & Fundraiser planned for April 27 \*\*\*

Organizing is underway for the upcoming Community Meeting and Fundraiser, planned for Sunday, April 27 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Institute. The program will include a vision statement by Fred Newman and conversations led by staff on key areas of work. To find out more or to RSVP, contact Melissa Meyer at [mmeyer@eastsideinstitute.org](mailto:mmeyer@eastsideinstitute.org).

## PUBLICITY

\*\*\* WABC-TV features "Learning Through Improv" \*\*\*

Carrie Lobman appeared on WABC-TV's Eyewitness News with 3rd grade teacher, Allison Addison, to present the use of performance and improvisation in the public school classroom. Lobman is the director of the Institute's Developing Teachers Fellowship Program, and Addison is a teaching fellow in this year's program.

The January 23 issue of TimeOut New York featured Matt Lundquist in a cover story entitled, "Shrink Rap." Matt was one of ten psychotherapists asked to dispense advice on hypothetical "crazy-making scenarios."

## PUBLICATIONS

\*\*\* Schools for Growth to be translated into Chinese \*\*\*

Lois Holzman's Schools for Growth: Radical Alternatives to Current Educational Models will be translated into Chinese and published by the Taipei County Association for Promotion of Adult Learning in September 2009.

\*\*\* Newman and Holzman in Routledge Reader \*\*\*

The recently published Routledge Reader in Early Childhood Education includes a chapter by Fred Newman and Lois Holzman entitled, "Playing in/with the ZPD," which originally appeared as a chapter in their Routledge 1993 book, Lev Vygotsky: Revolutionary Scientist.

\*\*\* Teachers blog on using improv in the classroom \*\*\*

The companion blog for Unscripted Learning: Using Improv Activities Across the K-8 Curriculum, is edited by authors Matt Lundquist and Carrie Lobman and offer teachers' comments and reactions to bringing improvisation into their classrooms. Join the conversation.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### APRIL

Tuesday, April 1  
Proposal Deadline / Performing the World '08

Friday, April 4 - Monday, April 28 (4 weeks)  
Creating and Working with Groups  
Online Seminar with Barbara Silverman

Monday, April 7  
Learning Group with Lois Holzman  
7:00-8:30 PM

Saturday, April 12  
Developing Teachers Fellowship Program  
Workshop

Sunday, April 27  
Spring Community Meeting & Fundraiser  
2-4 PM

### MAY

Friday, May 2 - Monday, May 26 (4 weeks)

Developing Communities  
Online seminar with Esther Farmer

Saturday & Sunday, May 3-4  
Advanced Clinical Intensive Weekend  
National training for social therapists

Monday,  
Learning Group with Lois Holzman  
7:00-8:30 PM

Saturday, May 3, 17, 31  
Developing Teachers Fellowship Program  
Workshop

## JUNE

Monday-Saturday, June 2-14  
The International Class Residency #3

Saturday, June 7  
Introduction to Social Therapy  
Workshop with Christine La Cerva and Lois Holzman

Monday, June 9  
Learning Group with Lois Holzman  
7:00-8:30 PM

Saturday, June 14  
Developing Teachers Fellowship Program  
Workshop

Saturday, June 14  
Graduation  
International Class and Developing Teachers Fellowship Program

## JULY

Thursday, July 31  
Deadline for Applications  
The International Class 2008 /2009

## OCTOBER

Thursday - Sunday, October 2-5  
Performing the World 2008: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

New York City

Saturday, October 18

Introduction to Social Therapy

Workshop with Christine La Cerva & Lois Holzman

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