

The Ethics of Engagement

- TCG AudRev15 Plenary session
9:25 am, March 26, 2015
- Designed and Led by Michael Rohd

Michael.rohd@gmail.com

www.sojourntheatre.com

www.thecpcp.org

The Ethics of Engagement

- Or...

- How do we talk about what we do in relation to what we value and believe as individuals, as organizations and as a field?

Our three main questions

- Why do we engage?
- What sort of decisions do we make on a daily basis in the process of doing engagement work (which means many things to many people)?
- What ethical dimensions, seen and unseen, intersect with the decisions we make around this work?

Our three main goals

- Hear from different people with different experiences and perspectives;

Our three main goals

- Hear from different people with different experiences and perspectives;
- **Surface ideas, examples, questions and provocations that may be useful as we move through this convening's conversations;**

Our three main goals

- Hear from different people with different experiences and perspectives;
- Surface ideas, examples, questions and provocations that may be useful as we move through this convening's conversations;
- **Consider the distinction between difference of opinion and clashing values...maybe we have both. Which makes for interesting dialogue.**

First, what do we mean when we use
the term Ethics?

Defining Ethics

- a system of moral principles;
the ethics of a culture (the not for profit theater field?)

Defining Ethics

- a system of moral principles;
the ethics of a culture (the not for profit theater field?)
- **the rules of conduct recognized in respect to a particular class of actions or a particular group, culture- medical ethics; Christian ethics, (*Engagement Ethics?*)**

Defining Ethics

- a system of moral principles;
the ethics of a culture (the not for profit theater field?)
- the rules of conduct recognized in respect to a particular class of actions or a particular group, culture- medical ethics; Christian ethics,
(Engagement Ethics?)
- **moral principles, as of an individual:**
(Her ethics forbade betrayal of a community partner.)

And when we talk about engagement

- For a moment, what impulses drive us to
- “Engage” ...?

- If you would, put your hand up each time you feel like the statement I read strongly represents the impulse that leads you and/or your organization to Engagement work
- (doesn't have to be the only one, but put your hand up for ones that feel like driving impulses, not just that seem agreeable to you)

We engage because we're saying-

- Lets get more people in here

We engage because we're saying-

- Lets get different people in here

We engage because we're saying-

- Lets get people more deeply connected to the work we produce here

- Lets get out of here and make work for people in other spaces

- Lets get out of here and make work with people in other spaces

- Lets make our community a healthier more equitable place not just through the plays we produce but through other tactics as well

- Lets be a theater that makes great art and impacts our community

- Lets be a community resource that uses theater to impact our community

- Let's make change

In what contexts do you make decisions in your daily work?

Hands up if-

- You make the art

Hands up if-

- You develop strategies, write text or create images used to persuade/invite people to attend things

Hands up if-

- You initiate partnerships in the community

- You maintain partnerships in the community

- You set ticket prices

- You lead work in community settings

- You raise money

- you design education programs

- You manage people

Our three main goals

- Hear from different people with different experiences and perspectives;
- Surface ideas, examples, questions and provocations that may be useful as we move through this convening's conversations;
- Consider the distinction between difference of opinion and clashing values...maybe we have both. Which makes for interesting dialogue.

Cast

- Panelists
- Cameos
- You

Panelists

- Martha Lavey
- Seema Sueko
- Shay Wafer
- Doug Borwick

YOU

Sara Zatz,
Associate Director
Ping Chong & Company

- Cameo group 1

Tim Jennings
Managing Director/CEO,
Children's Theatre Company

- Cameo group 1

Madeline Sayet,
Resident Artistic Director,
AMERINDA

Cameo group 1

Panelists

- Martha Lavey
- Seema Sueko
- Shay Wafer
- Doug Borwick

Brianna Firestone
Director of Marketing,
Denver Center Theatre

- cameo group 2

Samuel Roberson,
Artistic Director
Congo Square Theatre

Courtney Perez
Marketing Director,
Two River Theater Co

- Cameo group 2

Panelists

- Martha Lavey
- Seema Sueko
- Shay Wafer
- Doug Borwick

YOU

Roberta Wells-Famula
Director of Education,
The Old Globe

- Cameo group 3

Lydia Fort
Executive Artistic Director,
Mo`olelo Performing Arts Company

- Cameo group 3

Rebecca Novick
Director of Artistic Engagement,
California Shakespeare Theater

cameo group 3

You

Panelists

- Martha Lavey
- Seema Sueko
- Shay Wafer
- Doug Borwick

Two resources on this conversation-

Michelle Hensley's

* All The Lights On

&

Jan Cohen Cruz's

* Engaging Performance