How Shall We Survive?
Psychodrama and Drama Therapy: In an Age of New Media

At Lesley University, Cambridge, MA
On March 14, 2015 from 8:30 to 5:00

Theatre Beyond Borders is proud to present the first joint gathering of the New England chapters of the American Society for Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama (ASGPP) and the North American Drama Therapy Association (NADTA). This not to be missed gathering will offer an opportunity to consider the benefits and limitations of dramatic reality in the context of current social concerns and in relation to technological advances and social media. What is the past, present, and future of drama therapy and psychodrama?

Playing on J.L. Moreno's groundbreaking work on human relations: "Who Shall Survive?" (1934) and inspired by Jonathan Moreno's recent oeuvre "Impromptu Man: J.L. Moreno and the Origins of Psychodrama, Encounter Culture, and the Social Network" (2014) we will look back on the relationship between our two fields and the place of imaginative, embodied, and action oriented approaches to supporting well-being and social justice as a shift between physical stages and cyber platforms.
Guest speakers include:

Jonathan Moreno, PhD: Professor of Medical Ethics and the History and Sociology of Science at the University of Pennsylvania (joining by digital video conferencing)

David R. Johnson, PhD, RDT-BCT: Associate professor, Yale University, founding member and past-president of the North American Drama Therapy Association (NADTA); Director of the Institute for Developmental Transformations

Phillip Speiser, PhD, RDT-BCT, Director, Parkside Arts & Health Associates; Co-director, Omega Transpersonal Drama Therapy Certificate Program

Heidi Landis, MFA, RDT-BCT, TEP: Adjunct faculty, Lesley University; Board member of both the NADTA and ASGPP; Associate Executive Director, Creative Alternatives of New York

Patrick Hughes, RDT, LMHC, Adjunct Faculty Lesley University, Ethics Committee, NADTA

Saphira Linden, RDT-BCT, TEP, Director, Omega Theater, Boston; Co-director, Omega Transpersonal Drama Therapy Certificate Program

Edward Schreiber, CD, TEP, D.D., M.Ed: Adjunct faculty, Lesley; Founder of the Zerka T. Moreno Foundation

Nisha Sajnani, PhD, RDT-BCT: Associate Professor and Coordinator, Drama Therapy MA program (residential and forthcoming low residency/online); Past-president, NADTA

To register for the conference, please send your name, brief bio and contact information to: tbbconference2015@gmail.com. Please note this conference is free. Donations are welcome. Suggested donation range made at the door is $20-50 dollars. 7 ceus are offered.
Agenda

8:00-8:30 a.m.  Registration

8:45 a.m.  Opening Words:
Nisha Sajnani

ASGPP, New England Chapter Co Presidents
Maria Mellano, LICSW
Carol Feldman Bass, JD

NADTA, New England Chapter President
Alfred Vautour, LICSW

9:00 a.m.  Introductions and Sociometry:
Ed Schreiber and Phil Speiser

10-11:00 a.m.  Roundtable Discussion on Past, Present, and Future of Drama Therapy and Psychodrama with a special focus on social media with guest speakers (see above list)

11:30-12:30 p.m.  Playback Theater:
True Story Theater on the Past, Present, & Future of Drama Therapy and Psychodrama

12:30-1:30 p.m.  Lunch on own
1:30-4:30 p.m. Three Workshops to choose from

1. Towards the Body as Presence: Developmental Transformations (DvT)
   With David R. Johnson

DvT emphasizes the importance of embodiment, encounter, and transformation in a mutually created playspace. In this workshop, participants will be introduced to the theory and practice of DvT by the founder of the method, Dr. David Read Johnson.

Bio:
David R. Johnson is a licensed clinical psychologist in Connecticut and is an Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, Yale University School of Medicine. He has written extensively on the treatment of PTSD, Drama Therapy, and founded the Institute of Developmental Transformations. Dr. Johnson is the past-president of the North American Drama Therapy Association.

2. Playback Theatre and Psychodrama: Exploring Differences and Similarities
   With Judy Swallow

Both Playback Theatre and psychodrama are group experiences, and both deal with individual stories in the context of the group. Structure and ritual, though different for each, provide a safe container for active co-creation in situ. This workshop will provide an overview of similarities and differences of both models and will explore when and how they should and should not be used. We will also ‘do’ a story in both Playback and psychodrama styles, for a chance to compare and contrast in action.

Bio:
Judy Swallow, MA, TEP, CRS, LCAT, is co-director of the Hudson Valley Psychodrama Institute in Highland, NY, and of Community Playback Theatre, also in Highland. In 1975, the year after JL Moreno died, she started her psychodrama training with teachers Zerka Moreno,
Ann Hale, John Nolte, and Alton Barbour. That year, she also was a founding member of Playback Theatre with Jonathan Fox and Jo Salas, and has been involved with both Playback and psychodrama ever since.

3. Rising to Tell You – Writing & Playing Back Poems of New Beginning
With Kelly DuMar

Telling stories of loss, failure, illness and how we rise from the ashes to begin again is essential for integrating our personal growth with the ability to inspire friends, loved ones and others who encounter losses. We’ll use creative writing prompts and Playback Theatre structures to draft poems of healing highlighting hope of new beginnings.

Bio:
Kelly DuMar, M.Ed. is a poet, playwright and workshop facilitator whose chapbook “All These Cures,” won the 2014 Lit House Press poetry contest. Kelly’s poems have been published in literary journals, and her award winning plays have been produced around the US and published. She produces the Our Voices Festival of Women Playwrights & Poets, held at Wellesley College. Kelly has an M.Ed.from the Harvard University. Her certification in psychodrama and passion for Playback Theatre inspire her creative writing workshops with transformative energy. Kelly has presented professional workshops at Mass. Poetry Festival, The Boston Book Festival, Playback North America, The New England Theatre Conference, the Transformative Language Arts Conference, ASGPP, The National Association for Poetry Therapy, and The International Women’s Writing Guild. She is a Fellow in the American Society for Group Psychotherapy & Psychodrama.

4:30-5:00 p.m. Closing Reflections:
Claire Byers, MA, NADTA NE, Secretary
Cassandra Wolff, MA, NADTA NE, Treasurer