

Drama as aesthetic education, theory and pedagogy



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The society is complex and in a continuous process of changing.

The complexity of the society young persons grow up in is a challenge for education.

Drama is important in this chaotic world, and perhaps more so today than ever because of the challenges young people are facing in modern society.

There is something special about the art form of **drama** and how it can work, both as a working form for learning in general, and as a subject on its own.

Drama as aesthetic education

One of the central purposes of aesthetic education is to realize art and the aesthetic experience, as an agent for transforming society. (Green, 2000)

Drama as aesthetic education

“/.../ common distinction between the ‘aesthetic’ and ‘art’ is that we can be moved by landscape or sunsets but we respond to work of art”. (Fleming, 2012)

The arts make a strong claim to be part of education. Through the arts the students can construct new aesthetic knowledge and deepen their human impulses and experience.

/.../**drama** can support the academic,
social and emotional growth of young
people. (Michael Anderson, 2012)



In Icelandic schools, **drama** is presented both as a subject and as a method in the curriculum

Drama's function as a art subject

Drama is considered a subject based on an activity involving making a play, performing a play and responding to a play: **making, presenting, and responding.**

Drama's function as a pedagogy-with the basis in the art form

Drama is useful to enrich and enhance learning in subject such as mother tongue, social studies, history and foreign languages, and play a leading role in the integrations of subject and subject area.

The research:

Methodology	Methods	The students
<p>A micro-ethnographic study of the practices of two drama teachers</p> <p>Two drama teachers: A novice teacher and experienced teacher</p> <p>One school year from 2013-2014</p>	<p>Observation , Field notes Memos, Interviews with teachers, students and principals, Video recordings and photographs , Researcher's journal, Participants' logs</p>	<p>25 students of both genders: 10 girls and 15 boys (11-12 years old), in 6th grade</p> <p>32 students in one class but in drama they are divided by gender into two groups of: 17 girls and 15 boys (10-11 years old), in 5th grade</p>

What are the
student's
experiences
in drama
class?

The children's voices'

“Drama is about helping us to overcome shyness, and we have to be able to put ourselves in the position of others.”

(IT Mountain-line school girl)

The children's voices'

“In drama you have to work with everybody, even if you don't want to.”

(IT Hillcrest school boys)

The children's voices'

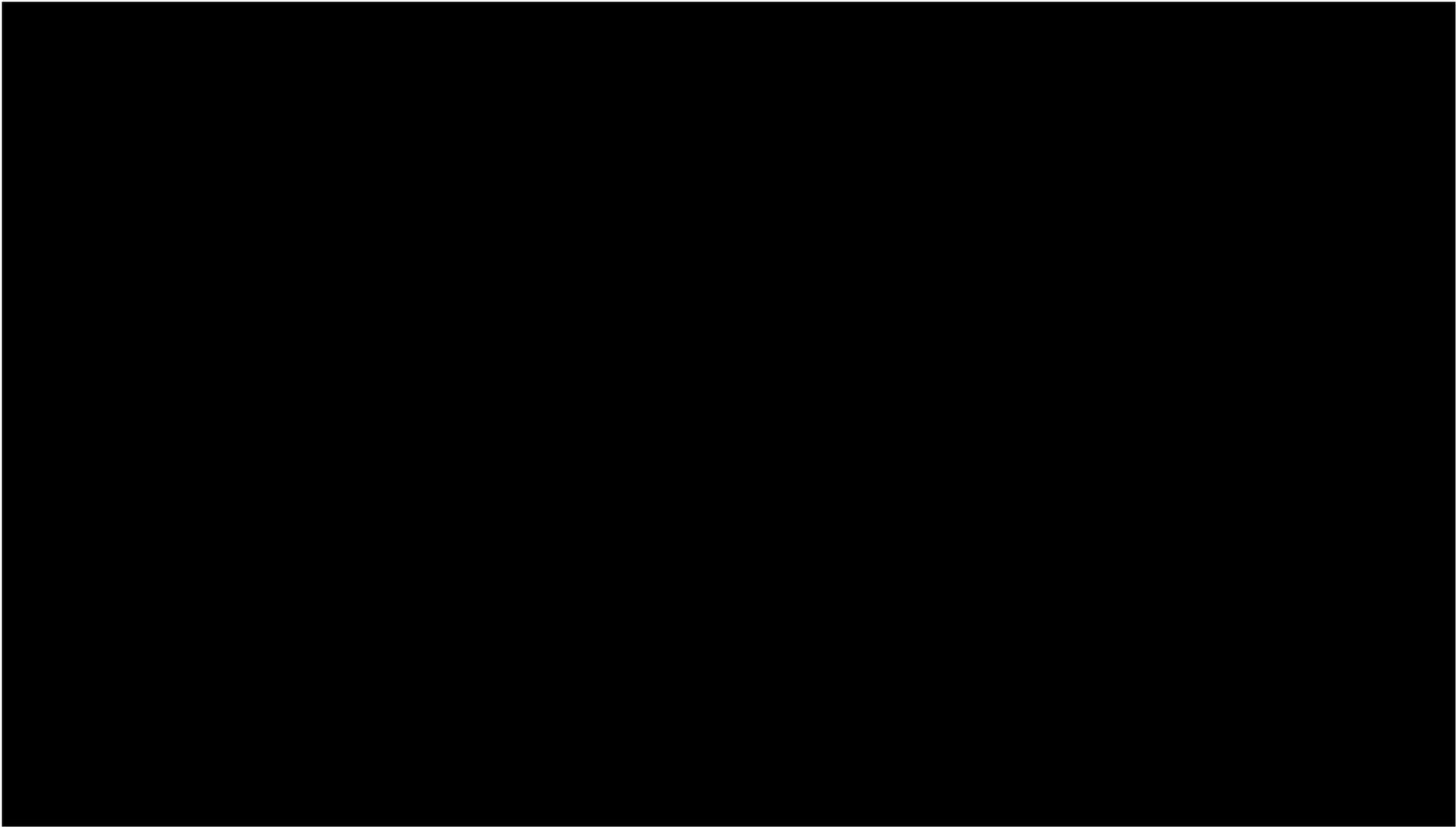
“In drama, you can be anything:
if we want to play a king and then
a football player, then we can do
that.”

(IT Mountain-line group boys)

The children's voices'

“In drama we learn to stand up for our ideas and we are training our minds and our ability to cooperate. We learn to speak and to say what we mean. Today, I have the courage to say what I mean.”

(IT Hillcrest school group girls)



The children's voices'

“Drama is fun because in drama you can be yourself and you don't have to sit the whole time and you can affect what is taught.”

(IT Hillcrest school group boys)

Drama classroom in the 21st century

Drama is an excellent channel to deal with, confront and tackle the many wicked problems we face as humans and our offsprings.



Literature

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