

Drama Methodology for the language classroom

Speaker: Peter Dyer

Date: Saturday, September 20, 2014

Time: 2pm-5.30pm

Venue: Euro Akademie, **Olgastraße 86**, Stuttgart (please note that this is their new address!)

This workshop is aimed at teachers of Business people but is certainly adaptable for any language classroom.

We will begin with some activities which encourage groups to work together and get to know each other. I call it group dynamics which is so important in any classroom or workshop situation.

I will then move on to simple speaking improvisations which are simply aimed at helping people to relax when communicating verbally in English. Many learners of English either are not encouraged to speak effectively or the students are reluctant to take part in speaking and listening activities in fear of making mistakes. The improvisations provide a simple framework of rules in which to play by and simple goals to try and achieve. Participants are engrossed with the game and forget in the playing of games their fear of making grammatical mistakes.

The speaking activities cannot control content at all and we do not specifically work on role plays in this workshop. Rather, participants are encouraged to listen to each other, give spontaneous responses, use their imaginations and creativity and by playing by the rules of the game, take risks. There are no right or wrong answers in the playing of the exercises, all that is needed is the will to play the game. The exercises are great fun and it is through fun that participants build so many of the useful skills they need in their corporate and business duties.

Peter asks that all participants approach the workshops with an open mind and simply enjoy the activities before assessing their value in their classrooms. Not all activities will appeal to participants initially but everyone will go away from this workshop convinced that drama has enormous potential in the language classroom and also they will be more confident in using drama in their teaching and perhaps be curious enough to pursue this fascinating area further. Attendees will also leave feeling that they have improved their imagination, spontaneity and risk taking skills. One very important thing to mention is that this workshop will have each participant laughing and thoroughly enjoying the fresh, remarkable and endless potential in all of us to be marvellously imaginative and creative.

Bio: PETER DYER

Peter was born and educated in Australia. After he graduated from teacher training in Melbourne, Australia, he began working as a professional actor under the name of Peter Tabor. He continued to teach drama in schools as well as appearing in TV, radio and theatre appearances. He also trained young actors and directed theatre. He began teaching English in Australia in 1993 and moved to Europe where he continued to teach English in schools to children and he has spent many years working with the Pilgrims

Teacher Training organisation in Canterbury, England where he began to train teachers in Drama methodology for the language classroom. This work has taken him all over Europe. He currently lives in Paris working with teachers and also business clients. Every year he returns to Australia to train South Korean teachers in Melbourne using Drama methodology for Primary and Secondary teachers. Peter is currently working on a book of activities for the language teacher and corporate coaching in English.