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Talking our world: an experiment in community theatre for women

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"Talking our world"

an experiment in community theatre for women.

A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the
requirements for the award of the degree

Master of Arts (Honours)

from

The University of Wollongong

by

Roberta Collins

BA(Hons)Wollongong, BA Dip Ed NSW.

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University of Wollongong
1991

For all those women

and

for Maurie, for believing.

Thanks to

All those involved in conceiving, devising and presenting the productions

Ian Pepper and Rachel Thomas

Maurie Scott

Noel Clegg

Wollongong Workshop Theatre

Department of English, University of Wollongong

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Helen Inman

Bill Kennedy

Janet Yong

Jan and Syed Hamdan

Tim, Josie and Rob Castle.

Abstract

"Talking Our World"
An experiment in community theatre for women.

This project melds the creative and the theoretical in its presentation and analysis of two community theatre projects which were devised and performed by a group of women at a local amateur theatre. The first production was titled Just Between You And Me, and the second, All This Talk. Both plays foreground the "talk" of women in celebration and in questioning the roles of women.

The scripts of the plays were workshopped and written using a consensual methodology. The dynamics of group interaction inspired the productions with an intensity which brought considerable audience comment and no small amount of personal satisfaction to the group members.

The thesis provides an understanding of the texts, both in the process of creation and in performance. Of importance to this understanding is the creation of meaning and the process of communication. The thesis includes the playtexts (bound separately), a theoretical overview, the annotated playtexts and a videotext of selected scenes.

Contents

Accompanying texts

Playscripts: Just Between You And Me and All This Talk

Video: Selected scenes from the productions of Just Between You And Me.

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