

The Theater of Learning An Overview

Understanding the World of People

Fred and Jane seem to be having trouble with each other, and their friend Hans doesn't understand why. He thinks Fred is taking their differences too seriously and Jane isn't trying very hard to cooperate with Fred. After weeks of talking to both of them, Hans is ready to give up. He wants to help but is not getting anywhere.

Welcome to the human world. It's the world of you, me, and the others. It's a world that seriously challenges us every day, but one we often try not to be involved in. It's a game people are playing all around us, but we don't always understand the rules. It may be vitally important, but usually we are concerned with other things.

Who Can Profit

The Theater of Learning is for all those who would like to understand the human world better and their own role in it — working persons, executives, housewives, retired persons, students, and so on.

Your Role as a Player

With the help of theater techniques, you can better understand and influence what is happening when dealing with other people. In a safe learning environment, you directly experience interaction taking place in front of you and learn on the basis of this: you reconstruct what you have seen, share what you have experienced, and then develop and practice concrete alternatives to your present tactics in dealing with others. This means better communication, stronger relationships, and fewer misunderstandings in your daily life.

Motivator, Coach, and Catalyst



William Parks has been working together with professionals for over 20 years now, helping them to improve how they communicate. He grew up in the United States and studied Mathematics at North Texas State University. After three years in the U.S. Army, he continued at the University of Heidelberg, studying Germanistik. He has worked as a trainer and coach at numerous companies, including Daimler, BASF, and Lufthansa. His published work includes *QuickCheck Amerikanisch* in Klett-Verlag and the monthly *Transatlantic Letter* per email service. After over 30 years in Germany, he is bilingual in English and German, and works with people in both languages.

What We Do Together

We meet first, discuss your concerns in dealing with your fellows, and then develop short scenarios depicting these concerns. With my coaching, you present these scenarios together with others in your group. Using *debriefing techniques*, we discuss experiences and observations, directly generating material for the rest of our activities. We then work out patterns of interaction, and develop alternatives to your present tactics in dealing with others.

You test these alternatives together with the others in your group and then commit yourself to concrete changes you want to try out in your daily dealings with other persons. After five to six weeks we meet again and assess the results. A unique learning experience.

Areas of Interest for Learning

There are presently five topical areas for utilizing the *Theater of Learning*:

- **Seeing through Conflict**
 - find ways to learn from conflict and resolve it
- **Transatlantic Encounter**
 - discover ways to work better with persons from across the Atlantic
- **Team Players**
 - learn to work together and improve your performance as a team
- **Your Business — In Three Acts**
 - develop and practice ways to conduct business with important clients
- **Expressing Yourself in English**
 - create scenes in English and improve your speaking skills

For details, ask for a flyer on the topical area that interests you, or just give me a call.

To find out more, contact:

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