



GEGEN DEN STRICH

**Wahrnehmen – Reflektieren – Gestalten
im Kontext der Kunsttherapie
Veranstaltungsreihe Oktober 2021-Juli 2022
Online-Vorträge, Ausstellung und Workshop-Tag**

WORKSHOP

Sa, 30. Juli 2022, 11 – 13 Uhr

“Staging a Fairy Tale that Reverses Expectation”

Dr. Dana Rufolo

Dr. Dana Rufolo is the director of the Theater Research Institute of Europe (TRIE, asbl), located in Luxembourg. She writes plays for the performance wing of that institute, called “TRIE Justice” (pronounced *Try Justice*) notably: 1) narrative poetry performances (*I am Viola da Gamba*, a music-poetry performance and *Joyn*, a dance-poetry performance) which are founded on her own book-length narrative poems and 2) street theatre skits for Amnesty International Luxembourg. For six years, she was the editor-in-chief of the quarterly theatre magazine *Plays International & Europe (PIE)* which was owned by TRIE; it became a digital website as of January 2022. Rufolo continues to write on European theatre for the digital website, which is managed and owned by a cherished former PIE sub-editor.

Dana trained as a mixed modalities art therapist with a specialization in drama therapy and holds a DESS in Art Therapy, granted by the University of Luxembourg in co-operation with the University of Paris V. She holds a Masters in theatre criticism; a Doctorate in theatre studies; a number of published academic articles, theatre productions, and works of creative fiction to her name – and is grandmother to nine grandchildren, eight of whom are boys.

Abstract

The theme of this conference is “going against the grain”, and I have interpreted this statement to mean exploring opposite personality traits within a social context. To explore this juxtaposition of opposite traits in a social and cultural context, we are going to stage a fairy-tale together. I mean to use one of the fairy-tales we associate with Germany, although of course this narrative form does appear to have existed in the early developmental stage of every single culture. It might be *Allerleira* or it might be an alternative tale – that will be decided when I see the number, ages, and gender proportion of the participants. The objective of this workshop is that our private perception of who we are in real life will become reversed in the fairy-tale fiction. In the dramatization of the fairy-tale, those who feel life has assigned them a humble role will become dominant characters in the drama, and those who feel life has treated them well will find themselves playing roles requiring servitude, patience, and humility. Of course, all of this transformation will be done with a sense of humour, for in order for me to assign roles it will be necessary for us to have a fairly intimate group conversation about who we are and who we wish we were and how large the gap (if any) is between these two states. In order to comfortably talk about ourselves to each other, the playful and game-like nature of this workshop will always be kept foremost in mind.

The magic of this kind of transformation for group learning about drama therapy is that participants of both ends of the spectrum of success are permitted to suspend their public persona for a while. The relationship of the person to the outside world alters. The psychological space the person acts within as an actor attenuated from self and from life's constraints is enlarged in the interest of imagination and freedom from judgement. After the staging of the fairy tale, there will be a closing group conversation and, if time permits, the chance to observe one's self in the video of the staged fairy-tale.

