

Translation plays

Innovation Case Study

Early Career Researchers Innovation Programme

What was the question?

How can historic foreign language texts be made relevant to the cultural context of the UK today?

Who were the collaborators?

Arcola Theatre; actor and facilitator William Donaldson; and Sophie Stevens, PhD candidate in the Department of Spanish, Portuguese & Latin American Studies.



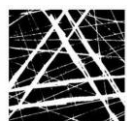
What did we do?

Working in partnership, Sophie Stevens and William Donaldson devised a series of unique theatre and translation workshops for young people that focused on an original Spanish language version of a Uruguayan play. The workshops were run as part of Arcola Youth Theatre's ongoing learning programme and acted as a 'laboratory' in which participants experimented with different types of communication and explored ways to make a historic play relevant to the cultural context of the UK today. Theatre translation processes are at the heart of Sophie Stevens' PhD research at King's and the project was important for her own studies as well as for Arcola Theatre's work.

The activities in the workshop brought to light the diverse cultural backgrounds of the participants and revealed how students relate to new cultures, how perceived language barriers can be transcended and how a dynamic process of theatre translation can be interactive, broaden the perspective of the participants and generate new translations for performance.

What was the outcome?

The project has led to further workshops with schools in London, led by Sophie Stevens in a programme which will contribute to King's Widening Participation activities. Sophie has included findings from this project in her current teaching at King's and in her doctoral thesis.



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theatre