



dominoproject

Seeking Collaboration

Hello, my name is “Nika” M. Stepankova and I am a holder of the business license enabling me to be a drama teacher and to organize educational projects and drama education courses in the Czech Republic. I am also the founder and the art director of the children’s drama group *Domino*, the theater company which has existed for about twenty years and which is a holder of many awards from national as well as local drama festivals. The children perform in Czech as well as in English and the drama group has been collaborating with a similar drama group in England (Wells Cathedral Junior School, Wells, Somerset) for four years; they also travel abroad to perform there. The group has taken part in international drama festivals in the English language which take place in the Czech Republic. The group is actively in contact in the field of drama education with The English International School in Prague.

My educational projects cover a wide range of educational institutions, from kindergartens to secondary schools (high schools). Some of my projects also include foreign teachers (Austria, Germany, UK, USA). Two years ago, I collaborated with the *Theaterpädagogisches Zentrum DAS EI* [Theater-pedagogical Center THE EGG] in Nuremberg (Germany) on the project called “The Golem Rocket”; the project was completely thought up and made by the *Domino* children. It describes an expedition into “an unknown world” and the first contact with the children in it. The Golem Rocket takes from the Earth (CR) to Mars (BRD) important information about our country, culture and history. The children communicate without words, through emotions, feelings and various art forms, and during seven days they are able to organize music and drama workshops, at which they – among many other things – perform together and create an exhibition of their art works. The motto of the project is: let’s learn to listen to, to understand, to respect, and to co-operate with one another.

I am looking for new contacts, i.e. people who will be willing to mediate and participate in collaboration between schools in my country and schools

abroad. This does not only include cultural exchange programs and visits to “foreign” schools, but I am also very much interested in the participants’ creative involvement in the projects: I prefer to create compact teams which explore cultural heritage and values of other countries, and which also try to build cultural values. Moreover, I am trying to find and/or open new opportunities to present the children’s drama group *Domino Theater* at foreign festivals, and I would also like to offer the same type of presentation in the Czech Republic to drama groups from abroad. In 2001 the *Domino Theater* produced an original adaptation of an Irish play, “Breaking the Wall”. The play figuratively describes communication barriers between people, races and nations, and the way of overcoming them. The number of audience who have seen the play since October 2001 up to 2002 is more than 2000 people. At the beginning of 2003 our performance was awarded 1st prize at the International Drama Festival “Grenzenlos”, Reichenbach (Germany).

Since 2002 I have been collaborating with a Brno grammar school specialized in languages. Its students took part in a joint English-drama project called “The Blackboard Jungle”; the project was a great success in Brno – more than 2000 students have seen the performance so far. A similar project has already been launched in Ostrava (North Moravia). At present the Brno grammar school has produced the performance called “Jack the Ripper”; and again, more than 2000 students have seen the play.

Contact

Mgr. “Nika” M. Stepankova
Domino Project & Domino Theater
Optatova 37
637 00 Brno – Jundrov
Czech Republic

nikatheater@centrum.cz
+420 541 221 580 (fax)
+420 541 423 239 (phone)
+420 604 486 386 (cell phone)

Personal Profile of “Nika” M. Stepankova

Graduate from the Secondary School of Pedagogy, Brno (specialization: pedagogy for kindergartens) and the College of Education, Masaryk University, Brno (field of study: Czech language and music).

Teaching experience: kindergarten, Community Center for Children and Youth – aesthetics section; Basic School of Arts – literature and drama section; Private Studio for Music and Drama; founder and head of the Private Kindergarten and Basic School in Brno, and at the same time the author of the educational concept based on drama teaching.

Author of educational projects via drama teaching (focused on English, music, arts and literature education).

Organizer of international projects of drama teaching and cultural exchange (United Kingdom, Germany).

Founder and leader of the *Domino Theater* (Brno); director, scriptwriter and actor.

Holder of many awards from drama festivals (e.g. Jiraskuv Hronov; Loutkarska Chrudim; Vyskovske slunce; Festival ZUS LDO Most; Grenzenlos Reichenbach – Germany).