

Asylum

Restoring the image

An asylum workshop & drama by David Pollendine

A Partnership between



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General Secretary - The Revd Canon Tim Dakin

Mid-Africa Ministry is part of CMS.

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1. Introduction to using the resource

The aim

This resource is geared to facilitate children and young people to grapple with the issue of asylum and our attitudes towards it in the UK. The performance is put together through improvisational workshops designed to last about 1hr 30 minutes, where all the ideas are created and performed by the cast.

The role of the Teacher/Leader

Is that of facilitator, but some directional skills are needed and a knowledge of good stage- craft practice. The case studies used in the performance are based on real life people, who either serve with or have a direct connection to CMS, (See below and www.cms-uk.org)

The medium

Mime and physical theatre techniques are the focus and can be juggled around. Techniques such as group freeze frames, individual Mime, and physical story telling are all used, as well as a creating a fully costumed fashion parade. In addition song can be done live if there are talented singers or any appropriate track can be used. Big Intent has written a track specifically for this show and it can be ordered by email at bigintent1@aol.com

Create the Performance in two easy steps.

1. Start by referring to the, **"Outline for workshops"** to take the group through the creational process of creating the mime and movement.
2. Then referring to the **"performance script"** add the scripts to the performance with a run through rehearsal

Restoring the image of Asylum seekers

Scene 1 (in ethnic costume)

Fill the stage with children wearing various dress from around the world and choreograph paths of movement for everyone around the stage. Music or percussion can be used as accompaniment.

At the same time everyone stops and a narrator reads out the text, then the ensemble reply in **bold**.

Narrator: *"An asylum seeker is someone who is waiting for permission to stay in the country – **Insecure**.*

*It is a legal right to claim for asylum under international law - **Confused***

*50 percent of asylum seeker cases are accepted by the home office as genuine - **Disorientated***

The countries that receive the most refugees are not in Europe but countries such as Iran, Pakistan and Kenya.

Insecure, Confused, Disorientated, Lonely – asylum"

Scene 2

Set up a Newspaper office scene in mime showing typing, photocopying, checking the newspaper – choreograph simple scene, which repeats itself and the actors speak out the following lines in sequence.

Collecting the news

Assessing the stories

Front page splash

The right to print

Sugi is moving around the stage taking pictures and after a while one by one the people in the office are arrested and taken away. A person is left saying "The right to print" and Sugi stops, looks around, and looks at the final

character. Then two people come on and arrest him. Sugi moves to that spot and sits down.

Scene 3. (Music accompaniment obtainable from CMS)
 Sugi is sitting on the street and people in groups pass him
 Lads out drinking
 Office workers
 Religious group
 Group of tourists taking pictures
 Children

They walk past him and onto catwalk, do a choreographed fashion parade and walk past him again off stage.

The scene finishes with Sugi on the stage on his own.

Scene 4 For this scene Sugi mimes out the words/thoughts with actions.

Sugi's story –Physical story telling

"A peace process in Sri Lanka enabled Sugi to resurrect his career as a photojournalist (Sugi enters taking pictures) until his former colleagues returned from exile to be mysteriously killed one by one. (Colleagues enter stage and set up the office say their line and then turn away from the audience) Sugi was informed he would be next.(Sugi looks around) He fled to London in fear for his life. Because Sri Lanka is no longer regarded as a dangerous country, (Sugi runs to a spot and pants as if out of breath) his appeals for asylum have failed and his benefits have been withdrawn. (Sugi holds out his hands in one direction and then opens out his pockets)) Currently his appeal is being reviewed (Sugi turns around) while only the generosity and advocacy of local Christians have stopped him being another homeless statistic."(The group who are standing at the back of the stage, turn to Sugi and accept him in among them)

Scene 5 (Full Costume)

Repeat scene

Workshops

1. Workshop 1 – (40mins)

scene 1, Choreograph **all** the children to walk in set patterns around the stage area.

Break – **10 mins**

2. Workshop 2 – (40 mins) split into 3 groups

Group a – scene 2 News paper scene

Group b – scene 4 Physical story telling scene Sugi's

Group c – scene 3 Fashion walk passed Sugi

3. 4 Dress rehearsal – 30 mins (repeat scene 1 Choreograph finale with an end image)

(The Fashion parade can be rehearsed in the final dress rehearsal. Simply have two couples entering the stage from each side, stopping to pose in the centre and then walking the cat walk to stop and pose again at the front. Children are usually very good at holding poses and looking out to the audience, but the teacher should assist where necessary).

Costumes

This is a great opportunity to involve your school, church or local community and pool together your resources. Alternatively you can contact your nearest Fair trade outlet and they are usually happy to assist in supplying you with stock from their shop on the proviso that items are available for sale.