Jammin Drama Project - Marinella Senatore

Jammin? Drama Project is a participatory based project that aims at bringing together different communities.

Project author or developer:
Jammin Drama Project - Marinella Senatore

Where:
US / Stati Uniti / New York Metropolitan Area

Website:
www.visibleproject.org/blog/project/jammin-drama-project/

Rooted in Marinella Senatoreâ€™s engagement with collaboration, Jamminâ€™ Drama Project is a participatory based project that aims at bringing together different communities: residents of Harlem, NYC, ranging from age eight to seventy and including people of American, African-American, Hispanic, and European descent, among others.The collaboration would emerge between participants, who would write and record a radio drama, in many senses mirrored by the ways that the members of the community live together while maintaining cultural identity and shared unity. The richness of the Harlem community will be apparent, as the participants from African-American and Hispanic communities will be able to work together on the same project, to which they will bring their own unique cultural perspectives and be able to collaborate in a democratic way.Usually in Senatoreâ€™s works, the public is involved as co-writer, actor, set designer, camera operator or director working together in an atmosphere of an ongoing laboratory, in contact with the contents they find in their environment and according to the level of involvement they want.The narrative results of the interplay between fact and fiction, history and chronicle; in such sense, her work fosters the construction of an archive of shared narratives that creates a sense of community.While she acts as the facilitator, or mediator, in the making of the project, the process will be a platform for each of the participants to share experiences and time, learn and cultivate new skills and technical practice, fostering a process of identification and engagement.By only working with two professional actors and some student amateur crewmembers, there will be the opportunity for collective growth and interchange, with participants gaining confidence and pride as they witness the outcome of their efforts when, for example, their screenplay is incarnated and performed by the actors.
Jamminâ€™ Drama Project is a participatory project involving over 450 members of the Hispanic, African-American and other communities in Harlem, NYC. From our preliminary meetings in January and February 2011 with various groups including poetry clubs, rappers, neighborhood associations, African-American and Hispanic womenâ€™s associations and over 400 citizens interested in taking part in the Project, our work has developed an outline for a radio drama to be structured in 4 chapters and to be recorded live, in front of the participants who will write the screenplay.The set will be located in the neighborhood, while the play, recorded and edited daily, will be presented both there and in art spaces, thus connecting geographically and contextually different places.The completed form of the radio drama will be a non-conventional mix of sound elements with emphasis on the process and not only on a finished â€˜storyâ€™, since in the making of the play, all processes of the workshop will be recorded as potential sound elements for the final edition. The artist will provide a small troupe, a set and two actors and will be in charge of recording. The participants will be involved in writing the radio drama and directing it. (â€¦)
Different perspectives for watching the events, the independent eye movements of the actors will highlight the different stories as divided and viewed from different angles, the emphasis on the moral and social issues through the conduct of characters results in a collage of places, figures and landscapes, linked to their histories and contexts.A small crew of amateur citizens (high school

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