

## 25 Years: Congratulations Big Brum Theatre in Education Company

Psychologists often try to describe and explain human behaviour in terms of equations. They think it makes them look like scientists. I'm not sure about that.

But from my experience of Big Brum Theatre in Education, and what they do, I offer the following equation

**S + S + S + W = Imagination in Action**

The first S is for the **Space** created by the heart of their work, drama. This is a complex space that comes about through the objects, actions and events of the drama. But the key thing here is that it is both the space in which the story of the drama unfolds and also the space of the world in which we live. The drama creates and links these and gives us, so to speak, rights of access to move about in both.

The second S is for the **Support** that those who are fortunate to work with Big Brum enjoy. We all need support in lots of ways, but this is a very special sort of support that builds on and uses the first S. To be accorded importance and have the chance to engage in important work, to be respected and valued, to be listened to and responded to at the highest level, even when you may think drama is not your thing.

The third S is for **Self**; the rather strange self that emerges from the first two. This is not, in itself, the self of the ego or even social identity, but a self that we all have been and can be to some extent. In our ordinary lives it's hard to find, but in relation to drama it can appear. Basically it is a self that imagines and thinks, both about the drama and about the world and moves between the two. It is quite absorbing and perilous to be this self. It is vital for us all to be able, at key times, to be this self.

The W is for the **Work** that comes about through the first three S's. This is a type of different from that which is dominant in schools and workplaces, It seeks to ask and to answer questions; often hard questions. It is a work that is at the heart of what the individual, group and class can do through the first three S's, a work that belongs to you and is important. Often it is a work you talk about on the way home, or think about late at night, or keep going at, after not thinking about it for many months.

Each of these three S's and a W is a major event and achievement in itself. But to encounter all four of them, joined up and living, is the most important matter for the individual, the class, for education, for society and for humankind. This I think is an equation for what Big Brum Theatre in Education does. It is vital for us all that we **Celebrate** 25 Years and Strive to help them continue to work like this in the years to come.

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