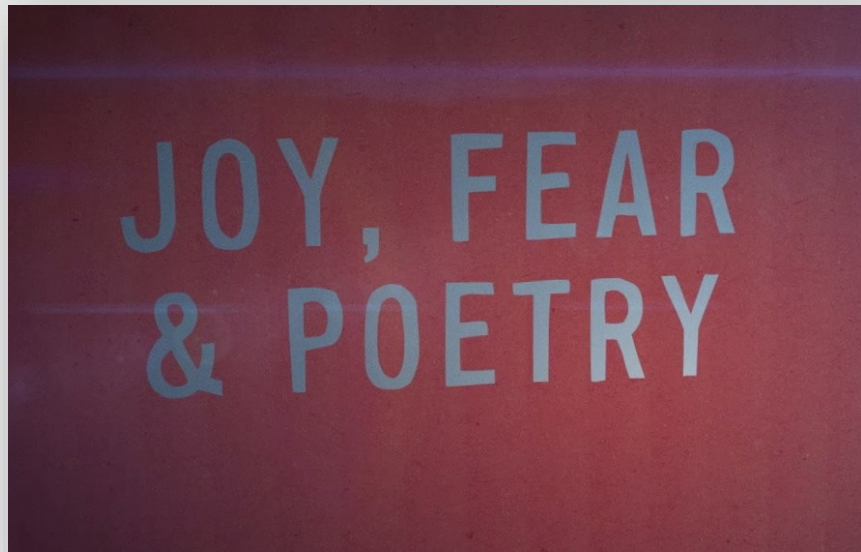


Title: Joy Fear and Poetry

Creator: Natasha Budd

Year: 2013



Research Background

This performance work challenges the 'worthy but unprofessional' (Watts 2013) discourse surrounding the field of Theatre for Children and Young People (TYP). The study focusses on children aged seven to twelve for whom limited opportunities for social expression exist in the arts.

Research Contribution

The production employs contemporary performance, postdramatic and constructivist methodologies to make an intervention into habituated patterns of positioning children in society. It embodies a model of practice that moves beyond participant empowerment toward a more nuanced process of co-artists creating intersubjective 'composite texts' (McCall 2011) for mainstream audiences. Joy Fear and Poetry experiments with techniques for performance making that create conditions conducive to authentic theatre making with children. These focus on dramaturgical, directorial and design strategies harnessed to maintain the performers' focus, motivation and cognitive engagement within a reflexive, collaborative process.

Research Significance

The significance of the creative work is that it articulates a sociocultural performance praxis that offers performance makers new techniques for working with children in the theatre. It suggests that non-actors can effectively communicate with audiences given the productive conditions.