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## Drama, Theatre and Education Day 2013

In my first message to drama, theatre and education communities as IDEA President, I urge us all to celebrate, value and share how our art form creates and engages communities. In and beyond schools, in halls and meeting places, in theatres both grand and simple, something happens when actors in role gather with audiences. Together their shared experiences allow us together to explore human experience. The following words caught my eye.

"I go to the theatre because I want to see something new, to think, to be touched, to question, to enjoy, to learn, to be shaken up, to be inspired, to touch art." (DICE 2010, p. 15)

Drama and theatre educate on so many levels. In a world where it is easy to focus on problems (and there are many), we must acknowledge the ways that, as drama and theatre educators, we are creative, energetic problem solvers who change the world day by day, person by person, through our work.

I am reminded of this as I write because my own students are working on their new production, *Cyberscars*. In this project they have created a community of artists. More than that, they have reached out, through talking with young people in person and in the digital world, to explore the consequences of cyber bullying. Their production will have an immediate impact through performances to students in schools. It will also have an ongoing impact through an online digital presence. These students remind us of the powerful reach of drama and theatre in response to changing human experience.

This story is repeated across our drama, theatre and education world and this Drama, Theatre and Education Day is an opportunity to shout our message from the rooftops.

I encourage drama and theatre educators to come together, to celebrate our many and different communities and to value our work. But I remind us also to take this message to others. Invite the world into our drama and theatre community. Help them to understand and value our work.

Drama and theatre reach the world in powerful and immediate ways. We must show the wider community, what we value and how our work changes the world.



*Presented to IDEA by Tintti Karpinen  
Paris July 2013*

Celebrate!

Value!

Share!



DICE ("Drama Improves Lisbon Key Competences in Education"). (2010). Making a World of difference: A DICE resource for practitioners on educational theatre and drama Chris Cooper (Ed.) Retrieved from <http://www.dramanetwork.eu/file/Education%20Resource%20long.pdf>