



University
of Victoria
Theatre

Orion Lecture Series in Fine Arts

Through the generous support of the Orion Fund in Fine Arts, the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Victoria, is pleased to present:

Dorothy Heathcote

Mantle of the Expert: A Further Paradigm for Education

Free Lecture
Tuesday June 2, 6:00 p.m.
Phoenix Theatre,
Department of Theatre

Presented by the Department of Theatre
and Faculty of Education

**Department of Theatre & Phoenix
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EDUCATIONAL DRAMA INNOVATOR DOROTHY HEATHCOTE COMES TO VICTORIA

UVic welcomes one of the greatest teachers of our time.

The Department of Theatre and the Faculty of Education at the University of Victoria are pleased to welcome Dorothy Heathcote – one of the greatest teachers of our time – for a free lecture on Tuesday June 2 at 6:00pm at the Phoenix Theatre building.

Dorothy Heathcote taught at the Universities of Durham and Newcastle-upon-Tyne in the UK for thirty-six years and has introduced radical innovations in the field of educational drama, such as “teaching in role,” “mantle of the expert” and “rolling role.” These revolutionary approaches to classroom practice challenge traditional assumptions about the fundamental nature of knowledge, education and pedagogy.

“No one has done more to advance the idea that drama is an indispensable part of the school curriculum than Dorothy Heathcote,” said Warwick Dobson, the University Scholar in Applied Theatre and Chair of the Department of Theatre. *“We are honoured to be able to welcome her to lead our Summer Drama Institute.”*

In the early days of classroom drama, the job of the teacher was to facilitate the drama experience for students without interfering in it. Heathcote reversed this practice, by insisting that it was possible – and even desirable – for the teacher to join in the drama that the students were creating. The teacher is still facilitating the drama, but from within, rather than from outside. She maintained that this kind of involvement by the teacher was essential not only for managing the dramatic possibilities, but also for enhancing the learning opportunities.

Developed in the 1980’s, Heathcote’s teaching approach known as “mantle of the expert” is a dramatic, inquiry-based approach to teaching, where the students imagine themselves as a group of “experts” with jobs and responsibilities. So, they might find themselves being asked to take on the roles of, for instance: scientists in a laboratory, archaeologists excavating a tomb, a rescue team at the scene of a disaster, a removal company at a factory, astronauts in a space station or a French resistance group. Through these role playing activities and tasks, the students develop the responsibilities, problems and challenges that real the real experts would encounter to developing their learning, special responsibilities, language skills and social behaviours. Recently, this approach has been recognised by the UK government as a key strategy in the national curriculum. It is this technique that Heathcote will speak about in her lecture.

A further refinement of mantle of the expert followed later in the 1980s. “Rolling role” is an elaborate and extended version of mantle of the expert, in which a number of classes take part in the same curriculum project.

Please join us for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear this remarkable educator at the University of Victoria in the Phoenix Theatre building on Tuesday June 2 at 6:00pm. This lecture is FREE and open to the public, however seating is limited. Persons with a disability requiring accommodation for this lecture should call 250-472-4947 at least 48 hours in advance.

Please note that a \$2.00 parking fee is now in effect in all campus parking lots Monday - Friday evenings, and on Saturdays (24 hours). Permits can be purchased with coins or credit cards at automated machines in most parking lots. For more information, contact Campus Security Services at 250-721-6683 or visit <http://web.uvic.ca/security/parking/index.html>.

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