TACKLING HATE SPEECH & RADICALISATION IN A MULTICULTURAL & MULTI-FAITH SOCIETY USING THE CREATIVE ARTS

UNESCO MIL 26-28 OCTOBER 2018
envigorART has used several case studies that have identified successful ways to engage in interfaith and intercultural dialogue, using the creative arts, allowing the next generation of activists to tackle hate speech and radicalisation while continuing to seek solutions.
MIGRATION MATTERS FESTIVAL

17-23 June

The Migration Matters Festival takes place every year during refugee week in Sheffield and at Theatre Deli in London. As a part of the wider festival, there is an open event in London, the @Home Festival.

The festival includes:

- PERFORMANCES FOR AND BY REFUGEES
- WORKSHOPS FOR REFUGEES
- FILM SCREENINGS

envigorART staged an immersive play ‘Home is where the heart is’ in 2017.

‘The play really moved me. It portrayed the migrant experience of hate speech so well.’
Audience member, @HOME FESTIVAL
BUSH THEATRE

- BLACK LIVES, BLACK WORDS MARCH 2017
- HIJABI MONOLOGUES LONDON SEPTEMBER 2017
- THE BELEIVERS ARE BUT BROTHERS JANUARY 2018

‘Theatre has a way in which to reach audiences and make them think about issues that really matter. For each production we’ve seen 60% new audiences because of the urgency of the topics’ Madani Younis, Artistic Director, 2018
BLACK LIVES, BLACK WORDS

• Staged between 23-25 March 2017

• A response to the Black Lives Matter Movement

• Presented extremism as a result of the race issues faced in America

• Focused on individual stories based on real life experiences
HIJABI MONOLOGUES

• The Hijabi Monologues is an international project that started in 2006 in the USA

It toured the USA until its European Premiere in Ireland in 2012

The Hijabi Monologues London was staged between 28-30 September 2017

• It helped dispel myths around Muslim women

• Workshops and after show events are held to coincide with the production

‘Answered questions I was afraid to ask. I hope now the fear of causing offence will no longer be a barrier in forming relationships’
Audience Member, Hijabi Monologues, Ireland
THE BELIEVERS ARE BUT BROTHERS

- Interactive theatre performance using social media tools:
  - whatsapp: dangers of end-to-end encryption vs. freedom of speech
  - Memes

- Explored reasons and ways that youth are radicalised through the lack of internet governance e.g. 4Chan

- Highlighted the ease at which hate speech is normalised over the internet

- Users are able to hide behind an online persona without the fear of being ostracised
BECOMING MOHAMMED

2 – 21 May 2017

• Focused on the dangers of extremist behavior and its manifestation after conversion

• Dealt with Islamaphobia and hate speech

• Included three post-show workshops a week to engage audience members in interfaith dialogue and to seek solutions.

• Interviews were taken with key figures and organisations dedicated to interfaith and intercultural dialogue

• Digital project: podcasts, social media
NO HATE SPEECH MOVEMENT

- Launched by the Council of Europe in 2013
- Works to eradicate hate speech in civil society
- Works at national and local levels through national campaigns in 45 countries
- Includes internet governance

Rui Gomez, Strasbourg, Council of Europe 2013
CONCLUSION

Solutions

Implementing Human Rights Education.

Festivals and theatrical performances with an interactive element providing audiences a way in which to engage with topics.

Engaging in interfaith and intercultural dialogue

Creative workshops.

Visions for the future...