

Notes of Discussion interest group TRAINING AND SCHOOLS OF STORYTELLING FEST, OSLO, 15 August 2008

This is a presentation of some of the points made in a discussion meeting in Room 2. They are not in a particular order and there were no steps taken to formally agree or disagree with any of these suggestions. If anybody spots anything that has been omitted, please send it to me: Raymond den Boestert (Contact person training and schools of storytelling).

We started the discussion with the question: what is “Education for storytellers?” Are we talking about the same thing or not?

We asked all the people that were present at the meeting to share their thoughts and ideas:

-There is a need for a platform for storytellers to meet each other. (We can all be each other’s teacher).

-There is a need for high-quality courses.

-In Greece, a school for storytelling has opened its doors. There is a need to learn from other countries.

-Most of the students who are taking storytelling courses and workshops are doing so because they want to apply storytelling in their jobs. Only a small number aspires to perform as “storyteller”. (The Netherlands)

-The best training for storytellers is to put their skills into practice. Meeting with the audience is part of the training. It is important to create possibilities to practice and gain stage experience (e.g. storytelling cafes).

-Skills in other art forms can help storytellers to develop (e.g. dance, clowning etcetera)

-Way to develop into better storytellers: setting up a tutor system. A relationship based on trust between two storytellers is essential in this matter. (Scotland)

-Countries in need for knowhow in the field of education can receive support by means of a visit from a Mobile School (Iceland).

-Support for storytellers who start to perform after “finishing” their training. (How to survive after your training?)

-Idea: to arrange for a small group of storytellers to meet and work together for a week (Italy)

-Final question: who trains the older generation of storytellers? (France)