

BUILDING BRIDGES WORKSHOP VI: October 21, 2012

Location: Kakkaiyankulam MMV

Key Contact: Major L Edirisinghe (Chiraddikulam), Mr L Farhan (Kakkaiyankulam)

Assistants: Manishka Gunasekara, Reza Akram

Age group: 9-11 (32 children)

Chiraddikulam – 6 girls: Loheswari, Pavithra, Nirmala, Vanoja, Yalini, Thibadharshini

7 boys: Thuraichchelvan, Anosanth, Sarmeehan, Sarujan, Prasadh, Sathurjan, Vinodh

Kakkaiyankulam – 8 girls: Nakira, Farvin, Fathima, Nusra, Sabiba, Aska, Asira, Rifasa

11 boys: Afkath Afrin, Hafraath, Fausan, Nusair, Faasil, Sahir, Aasir, Hisaam, Ijas, Akkar

Programme:

Lunch

Assigning roles

Read-through of plays x 2

Preliminary blocking of plays

Today's workshop was spent in putting the two plays on their feet. As I felt it would be more efficient to have both groups working separately at the same time, I invited two friends (Manishka Gunasekara and Reza Akram) to assist me this week. Reza Akram will also serve as the videographer for the final performances.

I completed two read-throughs with the cast of "Taking Seeya to Hospital", and gave them initial blocking. It was more successful than I anticipated – some children needed to be reminded when to speak, of course, but most were able to quickly grasp when their entrances and exits were.

Manishka and Reza worked with the cast of "Looking for Pradeep", and after about an hour or so of rehearsal, we then showed each other the results so far. Blocking is still very loose and undefined, so next weekend will be devoted to working on tightening blocking, characterisation, entrances and exits (and keeping silent when not on stage!).

What felt most successful about today's workshop was drawing on some of the things we had discussed on previous workshops – like what emotions each character was feeling at a particular time, and how to appropriately act them out. Quite a few of the children responded well – they were able to quickly identify what they were supposed to be feeling, and equally comfortable about expressing their opinions. Also, compared with their shyness of the first few workshops, even the more retiring children of Chiraddikulam are valiantly getting into their parts. There is a bit of tonelessness and a tendency to speed through lines on all sides, and I will be tackling that more next week.

See pg 2 for photos



First rehearsal



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