

Dynamic Storytelling: Rhythmically Reframing & Reclaiming Relationships

Dr. Sonny Kelly

Educating, Engaging, Empowering



Description:

After an era of division and crisis unlike any other, how can we reconnect, reframe and reclaim our classrooms, workspaces, and communities? How can we establish, build, and sustain thriving relationships with students, co-workers, and community members? How can we tell stories that rekindle our own passions for our professions and community positions, while igniting motivation in others? Acclaimed performer and scholar Dr. Sonny Kelly will lead us in considering how simple performative techniques can provide inspiration for community members to tell their own stories, for building a sense of community, and for developing a courageous culture for discussing challenging past and present issues and events. Along the way, you just might find yourself re-energized as well!

Purpose

Building relationships and resilience through poetry and performance.

Format

- Face to face or virtual
- 60 to 180 minutes
- Ideally for 10 – 30 participants

Objectives

- Participants will learn simple, consistent, repeatable tactics for building relationships and resilience in their living, learning, and laboring spaces
- Participants will learn and implement the key elements of dynamic storytelling
- Participants will practice creative self expression through poetry and dialogue
- Participants will practice active listening and witnessing of others

Why a Performance-Based Workshop?

Dialogic Performance practitioner Augusto Boal (1995) privileges performance spaces as “*spaces of liberty* where people can free their memories, emotions, imaginations, thinking of their past, in the present, and where they can invent their future instead of waiting for it” (p. 5). From the beginning, Dr. Kelly’s goal has been to actualize Augusto Boal’s belief that performance can create spaces for positive collective growth and change (Boal, 1979).

Legacy Heirs Productions Inc has conducted performances, lectures, and workshops for hundreds of satisfied clients like: GlaxoSmithKline, QIAGEN, The Association of Community Health Workers, Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs, HMA Community Strategies, RTI, Sentara Health, The USO, The Junior League, Cumberland County Arts Council, Duke University, Syracuse University, UNC Chapel Hill, UNC Greensboro, Fayetteville State University, East Carolina University, Georgia Tech University, St. Andrews University, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Sandhills Community College, Durham Technical Community College, The Levin Jewish Community Center, as well as numerous churches, community organizations, and K-12 schools across the nation.

END GOAL: Establish simple, consistent, repeatable rhythms to build courageous spaces

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The Power of Dialogue

My use of the term dialogue is also based upon David Bohm's (1994) definition of dialogue as an open, empathetic, collective, coherent, iterative, and reflexive sharing of unique perspectives, ideas, and ideals between participants that comprises a "*stream of meaning* flowing among and through us and between us" (p. 7). The kind of dialogue that *The Talk* pursues is what Lisa Schirch and David Campt (2007) conceptualize in their work on "dialogue for difficult subjects" as an open and continuous mutual learning process that "aims to build relationships between people as they address a common concern" (p. 6). It is through the episteme of critical dialogic performance and performance-making that I seek to facilitate intrapersonal and interpersonal dialogue that can reframe and reclaim a positive, dignified, and agential sense of self for, and with diverse community members.

About Dr. Sonny Kelly (CEO & Lead Teacher/Learner)

Dr. Sonny Kelly is a professional performer, storyteller, motivator, speaker, veteran and scholar. Currently a full time professor of Communication at Fayetteville Technical Community College, Dr. Kelly holds a PhD in Communication from UNC Chapel Hill. He is a graduate of St. Mary's University (MA, Communication Studies, '08) and Stanford University (BA, International Relations, '98). Dr. Kelly has been a professional actor on stage and television for over 25 years. He has served our nation as a U.S. Air Force officer, and his community as a non-profit organization program director, a youth worker and church minister. He volunteers as an Artist in Residence and Advisory Board Council member with Fayetteville Urban Ministry's Find-A-Friend youth program in Fayetteville, NC **To learn more, please visit www.legacyheirsproductions.com or contact Sonny Kelly at (210)793-5241.**

References

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- Schirch, L. & Campt, D. (2007). *The little book of dialogue for difficult subjects: A practical, hands on guide*. New York, NY: Skyhorse Publishing.
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