



Events

SONJA KUFTINEC Theatre Arts, University of Minnesota

Thursday, April 24, 2008
6:30 pm
North Creek Events Center, UW Bothell
Reception to follow

Theatrical Facilitation in the Balkans and Middle East

Sonja Kuftinec has been creating theatre with youth in the Balkans and Middle East for over ten years. In this talk, she addresses what theatre might offer in spaces of violent conflict and territorial dispossession, focusing on the ethics of facilitation. How does theatre allow participants to encounter each other through affective relationships rather than ethnic oppositions? How does theatrical performance avoid creating an “aesthetics of suffering”? How can documentation of the theatrical process resist a “narrative of hope” that elides dissent and difference? These questions frame a talk grounded in several case studies featuring youth participants.

Sonja Kuftinec is Associate Professor of Theatre Arts at the University of Minnesota as well as a director and a dramaturg. A frequent contributor to *Community Arts Network* and other journals, she is author of *Staging America: Cornerstone and Community-Based Theater* (2003) and is currently completing a book entitled *Theatre, Facilitation, and Nation Formation in the Balkans and Middle East*. Her scholarship on community-based performance and “theatre of reconciliation” contributes to the literature and practices of critical pedagogy, ethnic/religious identity, intergroup dialogue, peace activism, youth agency, community arts, development, and social change.

This lecture is part of the 2007-2008 *New Formations of Cultural Studies* series, a project related to the ongoing regional work of the *Cultural Studies Praxis Collective* (CSPC).

For directions to UW Bothell and for more information about the CSPC, please visit www.simpsoncenter.org/cspc.

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