

Jammin' Drama Project

An interactive play involving over 450 members of the Hispanic, African-American and other communities in Harlem, NYC

visible

Project author or developer:
Marinella Senatore

Where:
US / United States / New York

Website:
www.marinella-senatore.com/work/index.php

Rooted in Marinella Senatore's engagement with collaboration, Jammin' Drama Project is a participatory based project that aims at bringing together different communities: residents of Harlem, NYC, ranging from age eight to seventy and including people of American, African-American, Hispanic, and European descent, among others. The collaboration would emerge between participants, who would write and record a radio drama, in many senses mirrored the ways that the members of the community live together while maintaining cultural identity and shared unity. The richness of the Harlem community will be apparent, as the participants from African-American and Hispanic communities will be able to work together on the same project, to which they will bring their own unique cultural perspectives and be able to collaborate in a democratic way. Usually in Senatore's works, the public is involved as co-writer, actor, set designer, camera operator, director! working together in an atmosphere of ongoing laboratory, in contact with the contents they find in their environment and according to the level of involvement they want. The narrative results of the interplay between fact and fiction, history and chronicle; in such sense, her work fosters the construction of an archive of shared narratives that creates a sense of community. While she acts as the facilitator, or mediator, in the making of the project, the process will be a platform for each of the participants to share experiences and time, learn and cultivate new skills and technical practice, fostering a process of identification and engagement. By only working with two professional actors and some student amateur crewmembers, there will be opportunity for collective growth and interchange, with participants gaining confidence and pride as they witness the outcome of their efforts when, for example, their screenplay is incarnated and performed by the actors.

