

Dear colleagues,

Warm greetings from New Haven, Connecticut to all 483 participants in the Forum and a great, big thanks for your continued interest and participation.

Below is a brief summary of reactions to Cydelle and Ken's questions from today:

\* What is the difference between theater and educational theater or theater in education?

-- A participant suggested that the biggest difference is the intended effect (acquisition of new knowledge or skill, exploration of personal attitudes, or even change in behaviours) that the educational theatre has on the audience.

-- Another participant suggested that educational theatre engages the audience through more interaction. It opens up an opportunity for a dialogue and provides room for the audience to learn more from the artists and vice-versa.

\* How can peer theater deliver compelling messages to young people and still be seen as entertainment?

-- Participant agreed points covered when we discussed other forms of media, suggesting that knowing one's audience and being culturally appropriate and relevant for that audience is the key in delivering compelling messages. For example, what may be funny or entertaining in the US, may not be in other places.

[Editorial question: Naturally, cultural differences are many around the world, however, is there such a thing as "global youth culture"? Are there ideas, concepts, fashions or trends that may be similar or even the same across geographic and cultural boundaries? If so, who are the stakeholders in that global youth culture?]

-- Another colleague suggested that peer theatre is able to deliver compelling messages and entertain young people because it allows interaction amongst peers without constraints and with minimal fear due to the nature of the participating group.

-- Finally, a participant suggested that peer theatre, must like any other public health initiatives, should be monitored, evaluated and altered accordingly to increase its effectiveness.

\* Can live theater influence and/or change knowledge, attitudes and behavior?

-- We agreed that theatre can have a significant influence on its audience, but behind such efforts is enormous work by the creators, actors and others.

-- Further, participants suggested that live theatre can produce an effect, especially if it originates from the community itself and engages the audience fully.