

The Remscheid Academy

Editorial

It does not take long to persuade small children, to move to music, to beat a rhythm, to sing along with a melody, to play role games or to paint or to make figures out of plasticine. This is part and parcel of their everyday life and it is at the same time the most powerful motor in their development.

Creative and artistic activity is indispensable in life: for the older child, for teenagers and for adults. During such activities we experience enjoyment and validation, enrichment and development. Unfortunately these natural talents disappear if they do not receive stimulation. It is therefore important that children in nursery groups and in schools, in youth groups, in music schools and in art schools are encouraged to be creative and to concern themselves with drama and dance and with music and art. And because children and young people growing up today are very influenced by the media, a critical and at the same time creative approach to the press, radio, television, photography, video, computers and the internet is also necessary.

The Remscheid Academy has, for more than forty years now, had the task of developing concepts in these fields, has given support and provided training. Its first priority is to qualify professionals from cultural work and youthwork to instruct and guide children and young people with competence. It organizes courses, long-term advanced training, conferences and workshops, and it publishes books for use in education.

A second focal point of its work lies in the development of new concepts for the practice of cultural education. For it is especially important that the education of children and young people move with the times and tasks into account the changing framework and the changing interest of young people.

The third task of the academy is to carry out effective lobby work for the cultural interests of children and young people. Of course there are German and international regulations and laws which secure the rights for culture and play and for education and participation. Nevertheless it will need many responsible and creative individuals involved in politics to create the stimulating milieu which are necessary for young people to be aware of their rights.

All of this costs money. Above all: money from taxes, which allows not just the children of wealthy parents receive cultural education. It is the Remscheid Academy's opinion that: if there is a worthwhile investment for our society, then it is the investment in the cultural education of our children. The work of the academy ensures a rising generation rich in ideas, for the nation, its culture, its economy and its politics.

Most important for us however, is that cultural education helps every young person to attain the abilities needed to lead a good, happy and successful life.

Prof. Dr. Irmgard Merkt
Chairwoman of the Supporting Association

Prof. Dr. Max Fuchs
Director of the Remscheid Academy

The Remscheid Academy

The Remscheid Academy for Cultural and Media Education is the central institution for cultural youth education of the Federal Republic of Germany and of the Land of North Rhine Westfalia. As a further education academy for professionals in the fields of youth, social, educational and cultural work it is a recognised organisation according to federal law (Children and Youth Services Act).

The body responsible for the Academy is a non-profit-making association, in which there are representatives from the fields of children's education, youth work and cultural education as well as from training colleges and universities. The association has about 30 members. The academy finances itself in equal parts through subsidies from the Federal Ministry for Youth, the Land of North Rhine Westfalia's Ministry for Youth and through its own income.

The Remscheid Academy opened as an educational institute for the fine arts in 1958, when it started teaching students from colleges for social work in the subjects of music, play, dance and art. In 1968 it was renamed as „The Remscheid Academy for Cultural and Media Education“, then including media education and social psychology in its programme. Since 1971 the training courses on offer in the academy are exclusively for multiplicants working in the fields of youth, social, educational and cultural work.

Tasks

The development of new Training Concepts

The Remscheid Academy develops and tests topical and innovative course concepts for the diverse areas of work in cultural education.

Transfer into Practice

The aim of the training courses for multiplicants is that their resulting new knowledge and experience is transferred to as broad a base of youth and cultural work-practice as possible.

Social and Cultural Change

The social and cultural changes in society are observed and evaluated with regard to their importance for cultural education.

Interdisciplinary Cooperation

The broad spectrum of specialized fields in the academy's programme allows interdisciplinary cooperation and experimentation. Out of this arise new conceptual approaches and methods for various professions and fields of work, e.g. in the education of people with special needs, in public relations, in the educational practice with multicultural groups and in art projects which connect with the everyday experiences of young people.

Enjoying Learning

As an institute for the professional qualification of staff working in educational fields, it is very important for the academy that its teaching methods and models serve to motivate and to encourage general personal development.

A Bridge between Theory and Practice

In the academy courses practical learning is always substantiated with a theoretical fundament. The experiences of the participants in their day to day work are taken into consideration and are the subject of discussion.

Curriculum Transfer

Successful course concepts developed by the academy can be employed by other, in particular local or regional, organisations.

Development of Job Definitions and Fields of Work

The Remscheid Academy plays a part in developing new job definitions and work fields in cultural education. Through advisory and conceptual involvement the academy plays an important part in setting professional standards.

Meeting and Confrontation

The Remscheid Academy is ideologically and politically independent. It enables people from different cultures and backgrounds to come together and grapple with new themes and problems.

Information, Counselling, Development of Concepts

The Remscheid Academy is a contact address for information, for individual and for institutional counselling as well as for assistance in the development of concepts.

Public Relations

Due to its central position, in cultural education, for information and for contacts, the academy carries out multi-faceted public relations work. Its aim being, to attract attention to the interests of cultural education and increase its acceptance amongst politicians and in society.

Political Framework

The Remscheid Academy influences youth education and cultural policies on federal, regional and professional levels. Through expertises, opinions, committee work and projects it plays a part in improving and stabilizing the framework for youth work and cultural work.

Subjects and Themes

Twelve full-time lecturers are in charge of the running and planning of the complete course programme of the Remscheid Academy. In special cases, the academy works with guest lecturers who come from academic backgrounds, the arts, the media or politics. The work experience and the learning requirements of the participants are taken into consideration and incorporated in the training courses.

The courses or events in the academy can last from a few days or up to several years. The long-term courses run alongside the participants normal work so that there is a close concurrence between training and work practice. Such courses include at least three or more, one week course segments. Many courses include tasks to be completed at home, regional group meetings, team counselling and project presentation. For the qualification courses there are special admission requirements.

Interdisciplinary Events

The academy has in its agenda, interdisciplinary events dealing with current problems in youth education and cultural youth work, e.g.:

- The diversity of culture – growing up in a multicultural environment
- Disadvantage and chances in life – Support for people with special needs, in deprived situations and in areas of social conflict
- Politics and society – Effective safeguarding of the cultural interests of children and young people.
- Health and „The Art of Living“ – Theories, initiatives and support for a new culture of living

Departments

The Departments offer courses and qualifications in the following areas:

Cultural Education and Cultural Work

- Training for trainers
- Management and didactic in cultural education
- Cultural education for people with special needs
- Creative methods for dealing with problems in the work situation

Music

- Making music with children and young people
- Music education in music schools, nursery and primary schools
- Musicals and music theatre
- Pop music in schools and in instrument tuition

Dance

- Dance education in youth work and cultural work

- The anthropological foundations of dance
- International dance theatre
- The artistic culture of dance and movement

Eurhythmics

- Eurhythmics education for children, young people and adults
- Music – Movement - Speech
- Eurhythmics as an artistic principle
- Eurhythmics in cultural work, art and therapy

Education with Games

- Games in youth work and schools
- Participation in the planning of play areas
- Play in art, culture and everyday life
- Inventing games – creative play

Drama

- Drama education in youth work and cultural work
- From improvisation to the role, enacting the scene and audience participation
- Drama using speech, body and images
- Drama production projects – between education and art

Literature

- Literature for children and young people in educational practice
- Encouraging reading and writing – Creative writing
- Story-telling
- New ways to present literature

Art and Photography

- Art and cultural education in art schools for the young
- Graphic design – Painting – Ceramics – Sculpture
- Sculptures and objects made of wood, stone and metal
- Children´s museum and hands-on activities

Online Media and Multimedia

- Creative design with multimedia and online media
- Information, communication and games with new media
- Local and global networking
- Advice on media in youth work and cultural work

Public Relations

- Presence in the media for children, young people, education and culture
- Dealing with the press, radio and television in practice

- Strategic public relations work and social communication
- Sponsoring partnerships

Social Psychology and Counselling

- Gestalt counselling, gestalt and creativity therapy
- Supervision in youth, social and cultural work
- Coaching and counselling for people in leading positions
- Counselling and developing organisations

Prototype Projects and Initiatives

The Remscheid Academy's team of lecturers together with the course participants, develop and support a wide range of projects. Above and beyond this, the academy is itself the organising body behind nationally and internationally relevant projects and initiatives, which send out new impulses and encourage innovation. A few examples:

- The „Spielmarkt“ – the largest national specialist forum for play in education.
- The cultural education prototype project „Lernziel: Lebenskunst“ with its aim to support young people find ways to plan and enjoy a self determined way through life.
- The media education prototype project „konnekt“ – networking children and youth groups in the internet.
- The national initiative „kultur plus – Das Remscheider Modell“ with the competition for the „Gothaer Promoting Award for Cultural Education“.
- International theatre productions as projects in the drama department: „Mahagonny“, „Trommeln in der Nacht“ and „Dybbuk“.
- Choreographies and exchange trips of german dance ensembles with groups from Israel and Palestine.
- The European Week for People with Special Needs.

Cooperations

The academy's lecturing team is engaged in the various youth and cultural policy contexts on international, national, regional and professional levels. Because of its central role the Remscheid Academy is represented in numerous bodies and committees. Above and beyond this national and regional organisations for cultural education have their headquarters in the academy.

Institutes and Organisations in the Remscheid Academy:

- Kinder- und Jugendfilmzentrum in Deutschland
- Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Jugendbildung e.V.
- Dokumentationsstelle Kulturelle Bildung
- Institut für Bildung und Kultur e.V.
- Bundesverband Rhythmische Erziehung e.V.
- Deutscher Bundesverband Tanz e.V.
- Rat für Soziakultur e.V.
- Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Musik NRW e.V.
- Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tanz NRW e.V.

The Remscheid Academy is a member of the

- Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Jugendbildung e.V. (BKJ)
- Konferenz zentraler Fortbildungsinstitutionen für Jugend- und Sozialarbeit
- Arbeitskreis der Musik-Bildungsstätten
- Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Musik NRW e.V. (LAG Musik)
- Kommission für Jugendkulturarbeit NRW
- Deutschen Gesellschaft für Supervision e.V. (DGSv)
- Bundesverband Theaterpädagogik e.V. (BUT)
- European Network of Cultural Administration Training Centres
- Europäisches Netzwerk für Kulturarbeit in der Behindertenpädagogik

Publications

The Remscheid Academy produces a wide range of work aids for cultural education practice and also for its theoretical reflection. These are specialized textbooks and documentations, conference reports and project descriptions, magazines and newspaper articles, videos, CD-Roms and web sites.

A detailed catalogue can be ordered free from:

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