

Howard Lotker – Opponent for Aleksandra Bulatović's Bachelor's Thesis

Searching for Home:

How language and body language may affect the Dialogical Acting experience.

Department of Authorial Creativity and Pedagogy at DAMU Prague

September 6, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

I am happy to say that I can give Aleksandra Bulatović's Bachelor's Thesis *Searching for Home* a pretty good evaluation, I think it deserves the grade of C. Unfortunately, it does not deserve a better grade because, although it is strong thesis in lots of respects, it also has many weak points and unclear arguments that do not go far or deep enough.

I will speak about the thesis strengths and weaknesses together: In the parts that are well written and argued, it written with a very clear, strong, personable and effectively communicating voice. Alexandra at the introduction tells us what she is going to explore in the thesis, and she does, the topic of language and Dialogical Acting with the Inner Partner (DAwIP and DA) and her experience of finding her own 'home' is interesting and worth exploring, and she does it by exploring not only her own experiences, but she also gave surveys to colleagues at KATAP who had tried DAWIP in other languages and she was able to share their responses as well, this gave the reader a diverse and interesting variety of points of view.

But in the introduction as well, Alexandra talks about Dialogical Acting in a footnote, saying that it will explained in detail later the paper, but it never really is. I think it would have been a great help to make this thesis and the topic accessible to readers who had never experienced DA before, to take a page two for them and try to explain it simply and clearly what it is all about, how it is introduced and rehearsed at the department, and what benefits can be gained from it. For the department this is a given that's true, but for readers we shouldn't expect that they will share the same knowledge or experience.

In the introduction she also has a footnote that is a definition of Authorial Presentation which is unclear, she says it is, "much like everything else at DACP, is process of creating a piece or presentation. Where the student learns how to communicate and share the experience of a story, text, or perhaps something

personal, whilst founding their work on the principles from the other disciplines here at DACP.” This is in contrast to most of the introduction section, where her ideas and concepts are clearly formulated. Its clear that Alexandra can communicate clearly and effectively and she does through much of the paper – however this clarity sometimes suddenly disappears completely leaving the reader disoriented and disappointed.

The citations in *Searching for Home* were somewhat wide ranging, well chosen, and always appropriate to the topic at hand, Alexandra, cites theater theorists and practitioners, academics and creators from throughout the world, and those close to KATaP as well. At certain times I felt that there were not enough citations from these authors supporting her claims in sections of the paper, and I also think that the ideas in the thesis would have been served by more depth and dialogue with the discipline of philosophy, perhaps phenomenology?

The thesis *Searching for Home* is mostly a nice read, interesting, fun, and clearly laid out, but there are also lots of sloppy and unclear sections as well. I think it deserves a grade of C.

Opponent Question for Alexandra:

Please choose and deepen your evaluation of one of the two issues here:

- 1) Create an introduction of DAWIP for people who have never heard of it before.
- 2) Ground your thesis more deeply in philosophy.

If you have any questions or comments you can reach me as usual by email howardlotker@gmail.com or +420 777 303 289

Sincerely yours,

Howard Lotker

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