

# Living Memory in Europe

*Narration and writing about oneself  
as a form of Active Citizenship in Europe*

## The Theatre laboratory by Daniele Anzalone.



(Photo by Antonio Tiso and Ilenia Piccioni)

Here you have a brief description of the laboratory made by Daniele:

*"At this stage of the workshop participants have already written down an autobiographical memory. The objective of the workshop is to change the way in which each participant expresses his memory. This is because I believe that in the autobiographical narration, the content of the subtext of the story, is much more important than its semantic meaning. By the word "subtext" I mean the emotional state, intentionality, the gestures, body posture of the person. I also believe that the narrator is very much influenced by the level of confidence he has with the person, who he's relating to. So we also proposed some exercise to create a greater "intimacy" between the participants themselves. "*

In the first phase we'll invite participants to arrange themselves in couples and tell each other their autobiography. The narrator must pay close attention to the way in which he narrates: his emotions, his voice colour and tone, his breath

Summary list of the exercises carried out:

1. Confidence game: participants arrange themselves in couples. One of the two partners closes his eyes and the other, who will guide, emits a sound that will be the sign of recognition for the person with closed eyes. The guide moves around the space, giving its own sound out and his partner will follow.

2. Short warm-up.

3. Game colours: each participant imagines a colour and emits a sound that he freely associates with that colour. Then he changes the colour image and therefore the sound.

4. Zoo game: Each participant narrates a poem or a rhyme, a tongue twister or any other text it knows by heart. The participant repeats several times the text, thinking each time in a different animal.

Finally, as in the initial phase, each participant tells his partner his autobiographical memory. However, in this phase, each narrator paints his story in different colours and interpreting different animals.

Many participants were surprised at how important and sometimes liberating is to relive memories, even painful, in a different emotional way of expression.

Here you have the story of Ginetta Maria Fino and Giuseppe Raffaele Mainieri told by Daniele:

### **“Ginetta\_Maria\_Fino\_and\_Giuseppe (Pino)\_Raffaele\_Mainieri**

I can't write their names separately. The first time I saw them held by hands I thought in a young couple of fourteen year olds in their first love. But Ginetta\_e\_Pino lived at least two lives. Pino's accident, symbol of death and rebirth, marked a watershed. In 1996, after a car accident, Pino went into a coma; when he awoke, he had lost his memory and had serious disabilities. Thanks to the love, the patience and the artistic –theatrical skills of Ginetta, Pino resumed to walk and talk, against the predictions of doctors. Before the accident Pino was an actor.

In 2007 Ginetta\_e\_Pino debuted with a show out of their life: the title is "I do not remember". In the title, it's manifest their ability to love and smile despite the pain. This theater performance is a very significant example of the link between individual memory and collective memory

During the show Ginetta helps Pino to remember the most important milestones in their story: it is a "real show" because Pino reconstructs parts of his memory during the performance. Ginetta\_e\_Pino, this way, allow us to relive the story of a generation, which in the '70s dreamt and fought to change society. This is the only thing that Pino hasn't forgotten, but that perhaps we have. Watching a small part of their show on a video and especially knowing them personally, I was especially struck by their living, loving and compassionate presence. They are people who use their past and their memory not in order to victimize themselves but to savour and enjoy every breath of the present.

A heartfelt thanks to their example. "



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This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.  
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