



**Elixir Mime Workshops and Performances held in Dnipro, Ukraine**

**JULY 2019**

*Working with the community*

We were invited by the Ukrainian educational project SMILE to facilitate mime and Bible story telling workshops at their youth summer camps at the Blue Lake near Dnipro, Ukraine. There were two camps held, each one lasting for 6 days.

The first group had 15 children ages 9-12, and the second group had 15 teens ages 13-18 participating. The children attending came from lower income families and foster homes from rural areas. For many of them, this camp is the highlight of their year.

Our goal was to teach them basic acting movements and methods so they could enhance their drama group performances and improve their personal communication skills while learning English at the same time. Our emphasis was acting out Bible stories, particularly the parables of Jesus which will be performed for their community.

We did a similar workshop with SMILE at their camp in 2013. Some of the participants of that camp acted as youth leaders and helpers this year in these camps working along side us, making a great team! The key concepts that we continually emphasized were: **energy, concentration, imagination, and heavenly inspiration!**



**One of our many drama games—using balloons**



**On the last day of the camp with our enthusiastic performers.**

**Left: younger group aged 9-12  
Below: teen group ages 13-18**



**“Mime makes the invisible, visible”  
-Marcel Marceau**

**“The art of Mime encompasses all the feelings of the soul.”  
-August Bournonville**

# 1st Elixir Mime Camp ages 9-12

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**Below: Making a train  
Right: learning to fly**



**Miming a flute**



**Acting out the Good Samaritan story.  
Below: robbers  
Right: the Pharisee**



**The story of the Prodigal Son**



**Discovering treasure—  
showing emotions**



**Being a fish**



**Left: using masks and hats  
to tell a story  
Right: planning the story**

# 2nd Elixir Mime Camp ages 13 –18

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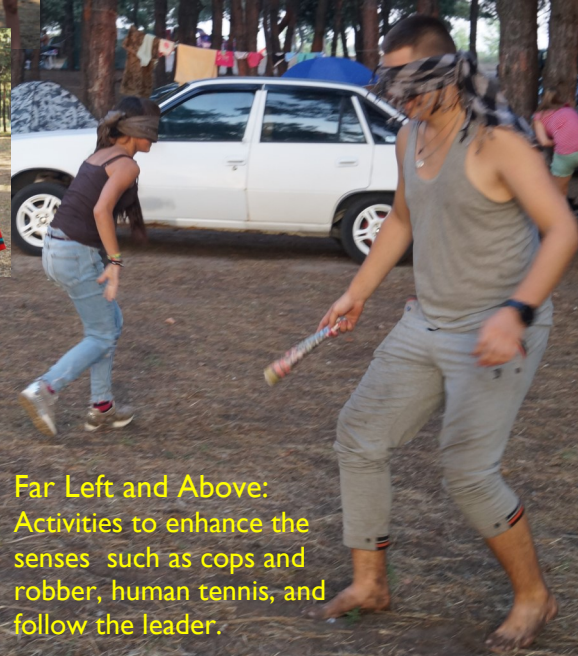


**Left:** Warm up exercises: contraction and expansion being a balloon that inflates and deflates.

**Right:** being a robot or staccato while learning fluid movements from a neutral position.



**Above & Below:** Learning the 8 basic efforts  
**Right:** using flashcards to reinforce ideas.



**Far Left and Above:** Activities to enhance the senses such as cops and robber, human tennis, and follow the leader.



Miming a tug of war game

# Story Enactment



First two rows:  
The Good Samaritan Story



Far left: the Widow's Mite story.  
Center: the story of salvation  
Above: Oh, the Places You'll Go! story



Left:  
Making original  
stories using  
favourite objects  
Right:  
The Camel's  
Nose story.



# Participants' Reactions

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Above left: finding new ways of walking



Above right: yarn game to review lessons and central theme.

“I liked the activities during the mime classes, especially the last game of trust. I liked working with and making masks and the exercises where we learned different emotions.”

“I got a lot of knowledge about ways to teach English. I learned a lot about expressing my emotions. Thank you a lot.”

“Elixir Mime was a new experience for me. I really liked it and wanna have more courses. Thanks for the way you did it. Thank you Jesus that we had this absolutely perfect class.”

“I was very impressed how you inspired us to learn new words using flashcards. Peter himself is very fun and interesting.”

*Inside Story headline*

“I was amazed at how I learned to express emotions and to do improvisation. I learned about appearing to move when you are standing in one place. Your professionalism was inspiring and you inspired me to do and train more so I can reach the next level of professionalism in acting. I got a passion for excellence and for bringing my performances up to another level.”

“I will always remember your acting style. I learned about moving in various ways and to reach a wider and wider audience. I liked the exercise we did with the yarn where we said what we learned in the workshops and how each story has a central idea that is emphasized using contrast. I am looking forward to next year and learning more with you.”