

Doctoral School Of
University Of Theatre And Film

**FILM TEACHING METHODOLOGY AIMED AT DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE'S SKILL
DEVELOPMENT BASED ON ACTION RESEARCH CONDUCTED AT MAGYARGÉC AND
MISKOLCTAPOLCA**

THESIS OF DISSERTATION

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The paper concerns the Romani Film School (RFS) I founded and developed with the help of many collaborators and shows the essential steps, results, failures and my further projects of art-pedagogical and social work research.

My paramount ambition is to be able to take part in the practical process and realization of the social exploitation of the statements described in the thesis, while trying to conform to the general requirements of scientific texts. Naturally it is important for me to continue the work if university professors, students and researchers get information about the essential statements therein and may support it with their propositions, but given the nature of my chosen subject, the development and realization of the described and recorded material during the action research can give it justification.

Preceding the present work, in my Master's paper for ELTE's Cinematographic Master Studies, I described my starting hypothesis according to which the labor market and social integration and as a result the success and life opportunities of characteristically Romani - or considered as such – segregated country youth living in severe poverty, cut from basic cultural-social necessities can be greatly boosted if their attitude concerning the world of labor can be changed thanks to the ways and means of the film teaching methodology.

While writing my Master's thesis I already intended to develop the described results into a methodology – the first action research of the RFS in Magyargéc and the final exam film entitled 'Ten Years From Now' - and profit from my experience acquired during the course of my teaching and research work.

I essentially acquired this experience at two institutions: ELTE's Social Sciences Faculty and BKF's Art Institute. I held special preparatory courses based on the RFS's material for social work students at ELTE, to film- and TV directors at BFK, whereas the Budapest and Miskolctapolca workshops enabled my students to put into practice in concrete circumstances in the field the theoretical knowledge secured during methodology development.

The most important assertions of my thesis are:

1. Dramatic success can be obtained on a relatively short-term basis through the organization of beginner film teaching in the personal development of possibly scarcely educated youth during the training.
2. It is not a declared aim of the RFS to train the service users to be professional filmmakers; we have never pledged to do so, on the contrary; we draw their attention to the fact that for the under-privileged, RFS only proposes filmmaking as an innovative social tool.
3. The youth engaged in the process of filmmaking and successfully cooperating in it will have strengthened self-confidence, work culture, communication skills, creativity, self-expression and thus in a short time the likelihood of their becoming employed, tax-paying and equal members of the society will increase instead of living on benefits, doing community and black market work.

4. Through the methodology explained in this thesis both film and social sciences students can be trained to be teachers of the future RFS, thus creating the theoretical conditions of instructing Romani youngsters.

I have tried to show in detail the conception of the next generation's training; its theory and practice, the managerial human and technical conditions. I have devoted an even greater development to the elucidation of the seeming contradiction, i.e. how important in my opinion personal involvement and distance keeping in this work are. Subjectivity is of course indispensable if we wish to have significant pedagogical success with the improvement of under-privileged young people's life conditions.

Anonymity is also important to be dealt with to achieve more than in a model experience, connected with a concrete individual. RFS's objective is to develop into a renewable, accepted and institutionalized program. For this to be possible, more and more young social workers, students will be needed who, working with the service-users, will be able to organize more and more new successful model programs, as well as – on finishing the project – to follow them up.

Finally I wish to mention my most important target, i.e. the change in attitude of society on a large scale. By improving the RFS's program and methodology, by cooperating with the concerned youth, the volunteers and professional people participating in their training, it came to light that to change the attitude of exclusion and prejudice as well as to strengthen the social solidarity towards them, the most efficient tool would be for volunteer social work to become a fashionable and exemplary attitude.

Given that the RFS also puts forward a new idea by putting the film as a tool in the centre of the educational strategy, we can be optimistic as things stand today. We have a good reason to believe that the enthusiasm and interest will only increase as more and more people are informed about our work and above all the particularly gifted films made by Romani children.