



Association Française Janusz KORCZAK

Association pédagogique et culturelle pour le respect de l'enfant — Loi 1901, J.O. n°130/1974

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The London Conference : Who Needs Democracy ?

London University, Monday 17th March 2003

To the Directors and the Staff

Unfortunately we will not be present physically, but we hold to assure you that we are close with you by heart and mind.

In this very difficult time of terrorism, of call to the war, of trivialization of the violence and exclusion, it appears very salutary to make research about Education and the bases of the democracy while referring to Janusz Korczak's Works. Its deep respect of the children, his combat for the recognition of their active rights and its calls to develop news praxis to very early initiate the children with the democracy, were indeed not at all utopia. On this time, it looks to be easier to understand.

In the French Korczak Association, we just have a new and brilliant illustration about this through an event which has occurred... in Belgium but from which you know the true person in charge as he is English: his name is David Greig, a young person and talented director installed in Glasgow, you certainly know him as a great friend of Korczak.

One of its play, *The example of the Dr Korczak*, has known an very big success in last February in Brussels, with its creation in French by the «Théâtre du Rideau», the oldest and one of the most active theatres of the city. David Greig relates he had written and designed his play in a militant way to restore the dialogue with the young people of the difficult districts in Edimbourg.

In the play, he describe the meeting between this wise old man of Korczak and a young delinquent from our time, in the setting of the ghetto of Warsaw. Through this dialectic, and the important media repercussion she gave rise to, the whole Belgian public which has been able to discover the right story of Janusz Korczak and its works.

Following David Greig, the Rideau Theatre's troop had quickly decided to set up an important educational device to interest specifically to Korczak, in addition to its usual adult public, the teenagers, the school public and the family public. Better still, the troop didn't hesitated to create specially a second play entitled ☐*King Mathias the First, a history of Dr. Korczak told to the children...*, around which could be articulated in upstream and in downstream ways many fine animations : meeting of the Parliament of the children, visits cabins, information on Janusz Korczak's story and visit of the exposition, expression's workshops with dolls, meeting-debates, workshops philosophical and a teaching bag.

Our association was likely to be able to support this creation from beginning to end as a partner of the project. The Theatre Team had been interested by our experiment of the teaching local actions with the children and by our resources in the field of the communication, of documentation, our new exposition, etc. Attend to the developments and the success of this double production with the children and the public was a source of deep satisfactions and fallen again interessants repercussions for young Belgian Korczak Association. Its very new Newspaper created by the children to the children as "the Little review" of Janusz Korczak, intituled the « l'R'young » had naturally taken all its place in the device.

With your agreement, we suggest that your conference holding is an excellent occasion to greet David Greig officially and to testify to him our recognition for his important contribution to the cause to our international Korczak movement with the creation of *L'exemple du Dr. Korczak* in Edinburgh and Brussels*.

The French Korczak Association will follow closely with attention the development of the korczakian's researches and activities in the U.K. She wishes to the organizers and to the public of this first lecture to London the full success of its works.

With our best greetings and most Korczakian friendship.

The Board of directors
President Remi Hess

By delegation
B. Lathuillere

P.-s. : *Thanks to give this information : for those which, knowing the French language, would wish to discover the play in its double teaching device, we are pleased to inform you of the recovery envisaged in Belgium : round at the beginning of November and recovery in Brussels from November 20 to December 13, 2003.

We had announced your conference our Internet website since January 10. The day chosen in week and the high fees may had not facilitated the inscription of our french contacts.

With our apologize for the translation