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Highlights

2024



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BIOGRAPHIES



Whitney Bell, RDT, CP, PAT

I was introduced to psychodrama during my Master's program in Drama Therapy at New York University in 2018.

I was instantly captivated by the transformative capacity of psychodrama and decided to pursue as much training as possible, much like a kid in a candy store.

Psychodrama has since been an expansive journey that has deeply impacted my personal and professional worlds.

I am an abundant collection of identities, stories, and experiences. I hold a multitude of roles including drama therapist, healing justice practitioner, dreamer, student of life, playful happy baby, and so much more. I'm honored to now add CP and PAT to the collection that is me.

I have immense gratitude for the rich experiences and beautiful people that psychodrama has blessed me with. I plan to continue carrying the vision of psychodrama forward through creative approaches to healing justice and community care!



Steven Durost, PhD, TEP, REAT, LCMHC

Steven Durost, PhD, LCMHC, REAT is the Executive Director & Owner of C.R.E.A.T.E! Center for Expressive Arts, Therapy and Education in Manchester, NH, which employs 25+ counselors and arts-based therapists.

C.R.E.A.T.E! is the recipient of the 2010 New Hampshire National Alliance for Mental Illness Award for Systems Change. Steven has been awarded the Heroes of Justice Award by the YWCA Crisis Services for his work with the Male Sexual Abuse Survivor's Group and for being a first responder for human trafficking.

Steven is one of the first dozen people in the world to earn a Doctorate in Expressive Art Therapy through Lesley University in Cambridge, MA. Steven teaches or has taught as adjunct faculty for Springfield College, Lesley University (in America and in Israel), New Hampshire Institute of Arts and New England College. Steven conducted research, taught courses and created groups in South Africa, Israel, New Zealand, Australia as well as here in America. Steven is a Registered Expressive Art Therapist with the International Expressive Art Therapy Association.

Steven developed and taught the psychodrama and sociometry course for Lesley University's Undergraduate Expressive Therapies Major. Steven has presented at the ASGPP, IAGP and IEATA conferences and is a guest speaker on the topic of psychodrama at Lesley University helping to ignite young interest in the field.

Steven is the recipient of the 2014 ASGPP's Zerka T. Moreno Award for outstanding achievement in psychodrama. Steven is one of the leading trainers in the Therapeutic Spiral Model as a clinically-based, trauma-informed body-engaged method to move people to their strength, through their trauma and to transformation. Steven has co-presented and presented TSM Psychodrama workshops around the world in China, Singapore, Sweden, Denmark, Greece, Croatia, United States and India.

Steven is also an invited kite-flyer to international kite festivals and a Pro Master Bodybuilder.



Laura Greer, LCSW, CP, PAT

Originally from Boston, I am a fascinated lover of people with a strong introvert heart, Among my many roles, I am a boastful mother, euphoric grandparent, devoted spouse, deeply committed therapist, colorful and comfortable dresser, untalented (but enthusiastic) crafter, grateful community member. Newly certified psychodramatist!

At Columbia School of Social Work in the 1980's I took an "Intro to Group Work" elective, in which one session was taught by a pair of fabulous guest co-presenters - Bob and Jacquie Siroka, who offered my very first sampling of psychodrama. I was enthralled, but I got busy building a family and a career, and 25 years passed before I found psychodrama once again. In about 2010 or so, I grabbed on tight and have never let go since!!

My primary trainer for my CP has been Cathy Nugent, LCPC, TEP and my secondary trainer was Linda Ciotola, M.ED., TEP. I have been training with both Cathy and Linda for many years as part of a fabulous cohort in Maryland, The Laurel Psychodrama Training Institute (LPTI). My cohort colleagues have been my inspiration, my support, and my family – we watch each other grow in magical ways! My other family has also been along for the ride – appearing lovingly beside me at home but also as characters represented in many-a-psychodrama!

My world has expanded in ways I could never have imagined through my local psychodrama community as well as finding connection and growth opportunities in the greater national and international psychodrama community. I am richer (well, spiritually speaking 😊), deeper, more creative, and more connected to the universe as a psychodramatist. I plan to continue onward to see how I can expand my own psychodrama practice as well as spreading the wealth of psychodrama to others through my practice in Baltimore.



Wei Chao Huang PhD, CP, PAT

As a psychologist, the first time I stepped onto the stage of psychodrama and witnessed the protagonist enacting their experiences of that moment, I gained a deeper understanding of my own mode of existence.

This experience further empowered my spontaneity and creativity, paving the way for new actions in the future.

I fell in love with this therapeutic approach and aspire to become a psychodrama trainer/instructor in the future.



Kristine Ives, LMFT, LPC, CP, PAT, CET-3

Aln 2018 I found psychodrama through a workshop I attended. I went from significant mistrust about the effectiveness of talking to a chair, to utterly sold on the power of the modality in about a day and a half. I am grateful for the opportunity to dive into learning this process soon after. From attending workshops in multiple states to engagement in two different on-going training groups, I have learned so much about myself and completely shifted how I engage in therapeutic work with clients.

My trainers were Jean Campbell and Karen Drucker as well as Johnny Oleson, Kate Cook, and Mary Bellofatto. I now use this modality not only with my clients, but it is the main way I engage in supervision with the next generation of our profession. Beyond traditional psychodrama, I also have training in psychodramatic bodywork. As I start the next journey as a PAT, I am excited to share the process with others on the same path and to learn from those who've come before me.

I have a private practice where I see clients remotely from CA and virtually and in person in CO. I am available for day long or multi day intensives as well as trainings in psychodrama, sociometry, and group psychotherapy. I provide supervision services and specialize in mood disorders, addiction, and eating disorders. I look forward to co-creating a future where the world experiences more connection, openness, learning, and accountability.



Kristine Jackson, LCSW, CEDS, **CET II, DWCF-C, TEP**

his photo captures the exact second I received the ABE email that began: "Congratulations!" And I got to be embraced by my Primary Trainer, Jean Campbell. At the moment which memorialized a marathon, I think I 'craughed' (cried and laughed at the same time) then immediately called my husband, Kelly Jackson, because without him, I would have quit close to the finish line of this marathon.

But let me start closer to the beginning of this story...

Chapter One: I feel like I did not discover Psychodrama, it discovered me as I was trying to safely hide in cognitive processing. I went to a training at Onsite and the discoveries brought me home to myself in a way I had never experienced. I wanted more of whatever that was, so asked Onsite if they could recommend someone closer to Southern California, because by then I had fallen in love, so wanted to travel less, live more.

Chapter Two: Onsite connected me to Jean Campbell and to ongoing groups that were such combination of learning, healing and connection that expanded the way I thought, felt and loved. Before I knew it, I was married and working at Onsite, where I met Mary Bellofatto, my secondary trainer with a heart big enough to hold me through so many phases. The more I learned, the more I respected the art, the more I wanted to learn.

Chapter Three: Psychodrama changed everything about the way I work. In addition to my private practice, near the ocean in San Diego, I am back to traveling- presenting, training, and speaking, after recently publishing a book entitled BE YOU: Using the Pain Pinball to Go From Wound to Wonder.

Epilogue: I am madly in love with my husband, our French Bulldog and our life. And I have so many people to thank for that; Michael Gross, Jill Krush, Paul Lesnik, Kate Hudgins, Debbie Kahng, John Olesen and so many others; including my family and chosen family that make life so fun.



Dong Wei Jiang, MD, CP, PAT

As an immigrant, she lived in Canada for ten years and later moved to Shanghai. She is a professional helper with a multicultural background.

She uses the techniques and theories of psychodrama in individual counseling and group work

She focuses on applying theory and technique of psychodrama in people's daily life and interpersonal challenges, and applying psychodrama in case conceptualization and psychological intervention.

She provides training workshops and personal growth workshops in Shanghai.



Joshua Lee, MSW, TEP, Certified Systemic Team Coach, EMCC

I began psychodrama training, in earnest, in October of 2008, when I met my first primary trainer, Cathy Nugent (and Linda Ciotola, TEP has been there along the way too). I received my provisional CP certification in July 2020. Cathy's care, conscientiousness, and clarity are wonderful qualities to be steeped in to learn psychodrama for so long. I could have stayed there forever.

However, she kicked me out of the nest to my next greatest psychodrama training experience with the Therapeutic Spiral Model framework. Under the tutelage of internationally renowned trainer, Kate Hudgins, I studied TSM Psychodrama, a clinically-modified adaptation of classical psychodrama with clinicians from around the globe. I became a TEP in April 2024 and am currently a trainer in the Therapeutic Spiral Model.

In the coaching, consulting, and community spaces is where I've been blessed to help humanity win by using the therapeutic-spiritual-clinical, life space tools of psychodrama, sociodrama, and sociometry. The very special way I typically work with others is via the coaching model I created called the Game Plan for Better Living. It is an experiential, multidimensional model that uses the language and metaphor of sports to work with participants' interpersonal or internal role atoms. Special shoutout to my lovely, uber supportive wife, Stephanie. Every time I have introduced her to various psychodrama communities I have been involved with, she quickly becomes the sociometric star. I love that I get to share her brilliance, creativity, and love with others.



Debra LeWinter, M.Ed (Theater) **CP, PAT**

Debra Seltzer LeWinter's journey to the ASGPP began long before her professional life. Imagine seven-year-old Debra, playing at the feet of her mother and other adults seated in a circle of folding chairs. Though she pretends to be playing, Debra is actually listening intently as Jews who survived the Holocaust as children share their wartime experiences. She absorbs their stories, feels the healing energy in the room, and watches her mother become happier and more present over time. The transformative power of groups becomes the core of Debra's future pursuits.

Growing up in Philadelphia, Debra had her first one-act play produced before earning a BA in Psychology and Theater from Bryn Mawr College. She became a credentialed elementary school teacher in Los Angeles, later earning a Master's in Theater Education from UNC Greensboro. Now based in Greensboro, Debra spearheaded the theater program at the American Hebrew Academy, where she also facilitated Bibliodrama. She began to merge her experiences in Teya Sepinuck's Theater of Witness and Augusto Boal's Theater of the Oppressed. Debra facilitated group bonding and sharing, writing and directing plays based on performers' true stories, including those on the foster care system or dealing with homelessness.

Despite her successes, Debra hits a low point. Picture Debra telling a young mother living out of her car that she needs to get to dress rehearsal. Instead of lightening the woman's load, the play is exacerbating her struggles. Exhausted from writing about trauma at night and caring for her own two young children during the day, Debra knows she is close to her true calling, but it seems unsustainable.

Then, Debra attended her first of many Psychodrama workshops with John Nolte, Kaitlyn Larimer, Kathy St. Claire, and Jody Anderson. Instantly, she knew this was her life's work; it was everything she loves without elaborate staging or long dress rehearsals.

Jody Anderson and Joe Duehl, who live in Roanoke, Virginia, became Deb's primary and secondary trainers. They train future CPs and lead psychodrama sessions as part of Anderson Treatment's Intensive Outpatient Program, where Debra eventually ran groups for people in recovery.

In addition to the National Psychodrama crew, Debra is also grateful to Anne Hale, Rebecca Walters, Judy Swallow, Jennifer Salimbene, Regina Sewell, Louise Lipman, and the Delaware Valley Psychodramatist community. She also thanks Jasmin Jimenez, Thomas Treadwell, Scott Giacomucci, Anna Bobikova, and David Moran for their support during her exam preparation. Debra is thrilled to have Martica Bacallao, who completed her CP onsite, as her primary trainer for her Practitioner Applicant Training (PAT).

Currently in her final year at UNC Chapel Hill, Debra is on track to become an LCSW. As a newly certified psychodramatist and PAT, she aims to create safe and transformative spaces for clients. A lifelong educator, Debra is committed to training future practitioners in this miraculous field. If you know anyone in North Carolina or surrounding areas interested in psychodrama, please reach out!



Ying Ting Lu, MEd, LCP, CP, PAT

The first time I participated in psychodrama was to experience psychodrama therapy. The director at the time was my primary trainer, Dr. You Shu Yu. I was amazed by the good therapeutic effects of psychodrama and continued my training as a psychodrama director for many years.

My partner saw me benefiting from studying psychodrama and was very supportive.

At the same time, I apply psychodrama in my work and promote it in different fields such as medical institutions and communities.

In the future, I hope to promote the education and training of psychodrama and further become a TEP.



Shan-Li Luo, M.Ed, LCP, CP, PAT

I learned psychodrama from Shu-Yu, You, and joined her psychodrama training group from 2013.

My title of thesis is “*A study on the Experiential Process of Psychodrama Protagonist through Doubling*”.

My trainers are Shu-Yu, You TEP and Shu-Chu, Yang TEP.

In their training group, I have met many partners, and we can practice together and support each other in psychodrama and counseling. Great partners help me through the learning process and encourage each other's spontaneity and creativity in our life.

I will continue to work hard on this road of Psychodrama to become a TEP. I hope I can bring the beauty of psychodrama to more people.



Patrice Migliori-Farnes, LCSW, RPT-S, CP, PAT

My journey started with a phone call to Paul Lesnik who at the time was an adjunct professor at my graduate school, not knowing that I was talking to my future trainer, mentor, friend, and one of my favorite humans. Our 'workship' and friendship have truly been a gift that has altered my professional trajectory.

He introduced me to Psychodrama and now my trainers Paul Lesnik and Lin Considine train the therapists I hire to work in my group practice. What a difference a phone call can make when there is such generosity.

He referred me to Herb Dandes for the group. Florencia Sabugo, my CP study cohort, and a double on-site buddy started to drive to Miami from Boca to learn about psychodrama. Herb would be so proud of our journey. I am also so fortunate to be on this journey with my psychodrama and life soul sister.

Through the next few years, I attended trainings that were being offered in the South Florida community and was so appreciative of the introduction to Lin Considine. Lin and Paul began their training group that started my path to the CP. I am beyond grateful for the care that they both take for our professional growth. We are all so fortunate to be on the receiving end of their knowledge and wisdom.

Our loyal group stayed connected by training during the pandemic via Zoom, a significant gift in itself. Lin and Paul also began the online CP study group during the pandemic. Again, so grateful for their belief in us, and their unwavering encouragement to trust ourselves and dare to be adequate through a journey that even surprised me. The self really does emerge from the roles we take.

I run a group practice in Boynton Beach, Florida Reflections Creative Therapies. Over half our clinicians are training in psychodrama again primarily because of the amazing generosity of Paul and Lin.

I hope to complete my application in the New Year to continue my journey as a PAT.



Tan Hoe Peng, MHS, CP, PAT

I vividly remember my first encounter with psychodrama in March 2004, led by my CP primary trainer, Dr. Gong Shu. This experience sparked a profound interest in the field, which has only deepened over the years.

In 2011, Dr. Gong Shu returned to Malaysia to conduct a psychodrama workshop, and I have been privileged to continue my learning journey with her ever since.

After becoming a Board-Certified Practitioner—a journey that took me over 12 years to achieve—I decided to pursue certification towards the PAT process.

Since earning my CP certification, I have actively shared my knowledge and experiences in psychodrama with university students and communities in both China and Malaysia. In Malaysia, I established the Zerka Moreno Center, aiming to blend the principles of psychodrama with Buddhist psychology. My hope is that the knowledge and insights I've gained will be of value to individuals worldwide, offering assistance to those in need, regardless of their location.

I am deeply grateful to Dr. Gong Shu, my primary trainer during my CP stage, and to Ji Zhong-Hong, who supported me during my PAT initiation as my primary trainer. Finally, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to my beloved wife, sisters, mother, classmates, and friends, who have offered unwavering support throughout my journey to becoming a psychodramatist.



Suzanne Patten Piazza LCSW, CP

My first experience with psychodrama was in 1986, and it changed my life. In 1994, I was elated to begin training with Dale Buchanan and Nina Garcia (my primary trainer) in my then hometown of Miami, Florida. In this extraordinary group, they led me on a transformational journey. To this day, I don't direct a drama without referring to the principles I learned from these mentors.

I will never forget their creativity in applying production techniques, deftly using role reversal and doubling to deepen the encounter, keeping the action moving, and integrating conserves such as poetry and literature into the warm-ups. During this time, I also began the process of learning body-oriented neo-Reichian psychotherapy—which I found to complement the psychodramatic process.

I continued training with Dale and Nina until I moved to Connecticut in 2002 and was privileged to learn from a master in group dynamics and sociometry, Mary Jo Amatruda. She is a protégé of Gene Eliasaph and became my secondary trainer. Today, I apply regularly in my IOP groups the profound and practical wisdom that Mary Jo taught me—such as how to create cohesion out of conflict or develop intimacy among frightened members who want to shut down. I will always be grateful for the opportunity to have learned so much from her experience.

Recently, I have also had the gift of learning from Louise Lipman, Scott Giacomucci, and the folks at Hudson Valley Psychodrama Institute—all of whom have greatly deepened my understanding of psychodrama and sociometry and have helped me to apply theory to real life situations.

Somewhere along this journey, I married a poet laureate and raised two beautiful children. All three of these remarkable auxiliaries regularly encourage me with merriment and mirth along my path. Although I did not always work as a social worker during this time (on account of being a mom), I did try to keep current with the psychodrama world and am grateful to be able to finally complete the certification process. I currently facilitate psychodrama, sociodrama, and process groups at the nation's oldest 12-step drug and alcohol treatment center in Northwest Connecticut and am continually amazed by the power of this process. At present, I am beginning a private practice and am eager to continue applying Morenian principles in my work with individuals and groups during this next chapter of my life.



Mallory Primm, PsyD, CP, PAT

Mallory Primm is a licensed clinical psychologist and certified psychodramatist based in Chicago, IL. Mallory is a faculty member at the Chicago Center for Psychodrama and facilitates weekly psychodrama groups at the Chicago Center for Growth & Change and The Meadows Outpatient Center (Chicago). Mallory has a small private practice and enjoys working with individuals across the lifespan.



Yehuda Rubin, CP, PAT

My journey into the world of psychodrama began in what I can only describe as a miraculous way. I was grappling with personal struggles, feeling lost and overwhelmed by years of unresolved trauma. Someone mentioned a therapist who practiced an unconventional form of therapy called psychodrama. I decided to give it a try.

I became captivated by the transformative power of psychodrama. The sessions were not just therapeutic; they were enlightening.

Psychodrama provided me with profound insights about myself, offering a new perspective on my life and struggles. It was as if a door had opened, allowing me to explore and heal wounds unknown. The experience was life-changing, fundamentally altering my worldview and setting me on a path to healing and self-discovery. Inspired, I decided to delve deeper and pursue training in this therapeutic modality. One of the aspects I cherish most about psychodrama is its "inside out" approach to training. The training is not merely theoretical; it is deeply experiential. By engaging in personal work during the training process, I have gained a profound understanding of psychodrama. This immersive approach has allowed me to internalize the principles and techniques of psychodrama, embedding them deeply within my psyche.

My primary trainer, Scottie Urmey, has been a constant mentor and guide in my journey. Additionally, my secondary trainers, Deb Shady and Rebecca Walters at the Hudson Valley Psychodrama Institute, have provided invaluable insights and mentorship. I also benefited from the wisdom of other psychodrama therapists, particularly Valerie Simon. Their collective wisdom and expertise have profoundly shaped my practice and understanding.

Additionally, I received training in psychodramatic body work from Susan Aaron in Toronto. This training has been instrumental in my practice, allowing me to incorporate body work into my psychodrama sessions. I integrate Psychodrama and Psychodramatic body work with both group and individual clients, offering a comprehensive and holistic approach to healing.

Returning to college to pursue my doctorate, my thesis focused on Holocaust trauma in the Jewish community and its ongoing impact today. I explored how psychodrama is an effective modality to help heal this communal trauma, providing a unique and powerful means of addressing and processing these deep-seated wounds. Since 2018, I have been directing psychodrama groups, witnessing firsthand the incredible transformations that this modality can facilitate. In addition to group sessions, I also conduct intensive workshops and retreats for clients, creating safe and supportive spaces for healing work.

I am excited to begin training others in psychodrama. I am always seeking opportunities to collaborate with fellow practitioners and expand my expertise. My goal is to share the transformative power of psychodrama with as many people as possible, particularly those who are disadvantaged and may not have the financial means to afford traditional therapy.



Florencia Sabugo, LCSW, CP, PAT

Yes, CP at last! A journey for sure. I was introduced to Psychodrama by my awesome friend (sister in surplus reality) Patrice (Migliori-Farnes). We were in graduate school and part of a school organization when in 2004 she invited Paul Lesnik to do an introduction to Psychodrama. We were hooked.

We joke around and say that we were “participants” for the longest time. Our training was gradual. From stand-alone sessions to weekend long trainings. Who we are today as psychodramatists is unequivocally influenced by Lin Consideine and Paul Lesnik. Lin & Paul have been the parental figures in psychodrama who saw us grow and moved through the role sequencing of becoming CPs. Lin & Paul have supported us professionally of course, though their personal impact is most crucial in our lives. They are loving, genuine, real and they saw in us the possibility of becoming CPs. Our training group plays an influential role as well. We have grown together and grateful for them.

The pandemic was a challenge. Our training group moved to virtual and rose up to the discomforts of directing online. In preparing for the written exam a few of us joined a CP prep class with our trainers. We sent questions/answers back and forth. We encouraged each other. Having a group to do this with was a gift.

I thank my husband (Nico) and daughter (Emma) who patiently supported me evenings and weekends to attend training.

We stand on the shoulders of others: Lin, Paul, Herb, Nina, Dale, Moreno, Zerka, and many others who are the ancestral voices of those who train(ed) us and trained them! We hope to offer some shoulders too and assist in moving Psychodrama forward so others can experience and learn it.

TEP here WE come! #TEPorbust.



Carlos San Inocencio, CP, PAT

Carlos San Inocencio is a Florida Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and is board-certified as a Master Certified Addiction Professional (MCAP). He is also a qualified supervisor for the state of Florida and a certified practitioner (CP) in psychodrama. With over 10 years of professional experience, Carlos has worked with adults using a variety of evidence-based therapeutic strategies to address co-occurring psychiatric and chemical dependency disorders, as well as complex grief/PTSD.

Carlos's therapeutic style embraces the human condition to empower individuals. His approach includes a fusion of client-centered, solution-focused therapy with cognitive behavioral strategies to help patients develop a stronger, healthier sense of self and access and understand their feelings to gain a sense of meaning in life. He has extensive training in various expressive therapies, including psychodrama and sand tray, to explore the emotional, behavioral, and spiritual components of recovery.

Carlos specializes in the treatment of grief/loss and trauma, and he utilizes EMDR (eye movement desensitization and reprocessing). He is dedicated to ensuring that every patient receives the best possible care during their treatment.



Carolyn Skolnick MA LMHC TEP

I began my psychodrama journey in the 1990's in Seattle as a client in a psychodrama therapy group. It was a lucky accident that ended up changing my life in profound ways. I was an avid Ultimate frisbee player at the time and saw psychodrama as another alternative sport that celebrated the spirit of community. I was inspired to become a practitioner as I experienced the power of the method personally, and eventually began training under John Raven Mosher and Georgia Rigg.

The residentialials were so much fun and I fell in love with John's Healing Circle Model. Georgia taught me the power of psychomotor therapy which I continue to practice in my psychodrama groups. I became a CP by 2008 and continued to lead several psychodrama groups with my colleague Liz Little. I chose to study for my TEP so that I could train people to use psychodrama to improve their lives and facilitate groups and hopefully create a better world through sociometry and shared resource. I appreciate the action aspect, the time travel involved, and the need to expand the idea of mutual aid within communities. The team approach of everyone being a healing agent for each other feels like a breath of fresh air. Teaching adults to play as the antidote to trauma makes my job probably one of the best jobs in the universe. Studying for my TEP felt like getting a PHD. It was not an easy process, and I am proud of myself for completing it. I want to thank John Olesen, Marianne Shapiro, Liz Little, John Raven Mosher, Georgia Rigg, all my trainees and group clients for inspiring me to go through this rite of passage. I hope to continue to be of service to the community by training people in psychodrama and continue the legacy of John Mosher by teaching the Healing Circle Model. I look forward to a future full of action, adventure, fun, and spontaneity.



Hui Yang, PhD, CP, PAT

Hi everyone.

I'm Hui Yang, currently a faculty member at the School of Social Work, China University of Labour Relations, a university in Beijing.

I have been involved in psychodrama since 2012 when I met my trainer, Dr Nien Hwa Lai. Becoming a CP has been a journey full of various adventures, surprises and rebirths.

I am grateful to my teachers and learning partners who have been together for many years, to my husband and son for their support, and to all the members on Psychodrama, we have made this process together.

I work mostly with individual counselling and group activities, and I intend to apply the techniques of psychodrama in groups such as university students, social workers, teachers, and working staff, so that everyone can experience the beauty of psychodrama as well.

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Feel free to reach out to us for any questions, feedback, suggestions or concerns. We're always looking to improve our service.

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