FACULTY OF EDUCATION

ORAL EXAMINATION

Kurt Thumlert

FOR THE DEGREE OF

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Tuesday, July 19, 2011
Faculty of Education room EDB 9511
at 9:00 am

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

Chair: Dr. Kelleen Toohey
Senior Supervisor: Dr. Suzanne de Castell
Member: Dr. Michael Ling
Member: Dr. Mary Bryson
Internal/External: Dr. Jerry Zaslove
External Examiner: Dr. Carolyn Pelletier, University of London
“Me too, I’m an artist”: Re-figuring aesthetic education

ABSTRACT

Who gets to play? This paper addresses the question by examining common forms of aesthetic experience enacted in everyday forms of classroom experience (as viewed through Jacques Rancière’s notion of ‘the politics of the aesthetic’). The purpose of this paper is to build on a view of emancipated learning by linking Ranciere’s notion of ‘intellectual emancipation’ to equally resonant arguments in the works of Ellsworth, Lather, & Bakhtin (among many others).

Using movie & theatrical idioms, my story pivots not only on Ranciere’s pre-supposition of the ‘intellectual equality of anyone’, but also upon the view that ‘knowing is nothing - doing is everything’. These two points, brought together, suggest a performative theater that departs not only from traditional/progressive forms of pedagogy, but also from forms of critical pedagogy that would see themselves as the emancipatory solution to the former.

Taking Ranciere’s The Ignorant Schoolmaster (literally), I highlight a notion of ‘affordances of equality’ that updates Jacotot’s practice of experimenting in ‘the gap between accreditation and act’. This way of doing challenges the opposition - or rather plays in the gap - between theater and world, imitation and reality, an expert role and a talent imitable by anyone at all.

Academic Record

Doctor of Philosophy – Arts Education, Faculty of Education, Simon Fraser University

Dissertation – “Me too, I’m an artist”: Re-figuring Aesthetic Education

Master of Education – Secondary Teaching, Western Washington University

Master’s Project – Hypertextuality & Sociocultural Contexts for Education

Bachelor of Arts – English, Philosophy, Cum Laude with Distinction in Philosophy, University of Washington

Awards

2009 Graduate Fellowship, Simon Fraser University

Academic Presentations
