

Greg Grobis
2022 Fulbright Hays Curriculum Project
Update: July 29, 2022.

Unheard Voices: Afro-Brazilian Diaspora

Project created from experiences during the 2022 Fulbright Hays Brazil GPA Trip
By Greg Grobis

April 20, 21, 22, 23, 2023 TH/F/Sat at 7:30 pm and Sun at 3:00 pm
At The Marlene Boll Theatre
1401 Broadway St. Detroit MI, 48226

Play Concept:

To illuminate Afro-Brazilian voices while raising awareness of the social, political, spiritual, and cultural experiences that compose communities of Salvador, Bahia – Brazil.

Goals:

To honor the ancestors that came before us.
To embolden structures of power for the Black community.
To raise awareness of Quilombo communities and their fight for land rights

Ticket sales and donations benefit:

To support Quilombo communities to obtain land rights.
To support the higher education costs of Quilombo students so they can continue to become courageous warriors of the truth.

The following could be performed live by students, Fulbright scholars, professional actors, community members (playing, acting, dancing).

Project advisory committee:

- Idea development
- Resource connections
- To obtain permission from organizations, individuals to use their likeness
- To help accurately communicate the experience of the 2022 trip.

Tell story through pictures and videos, through sounds, and smells.

Image for poster:

Bahia streets (black slave church) (colorful houses) (drum music playing, capoeira in the square)
Young Black boy staring into our souls asking “will you listen”
Candomblé woman smiling asking “will you understand”
Black Artist passing out Bahia ribbons asking “will you remember”
Black female politician “will you resist”

Realization moment for the project:

7/18: Quilombo community. Female leader of community spoke about son who was killed at 36 years old. Being shot to death 17 times while in a car. His fight against the government, who wanted to put a landfill/dump within the land of the Quilombo. He lost his life. The landfill was moved to another community and measures put into place to make it more

sanitary. The man's son, the leaders' grandson, spoke in English about this experience. He spoke in broken English. This speech, a monologue, moved me to tears. Realizing his father was my age. He in essence could be my son. His son, courageously fighting to get an education, though financially struggling. He wants to continue his father's mission through leadership in the Quilombo and through music. Yvonne King recorded the lecture.

At dinner that evening, I spoke of the idea of turning this experience into a theatrical production.

What lectures have tied into your projects? How? List them.

Most of the lectures and experiences will be turned in to moments for the play. I am currently working on an outline or experience and ideas. From Monologues to incorporation of some of Boal's TO exercises, the piece will focus on the following themes:

- Resistance
- Violence
- Courage
- Strength to move forward
- Hope
- Circles

Lectures or Experiences

Ideas for including them in performance arts.

Inhotim Museum

Creation of Monologue on Theatre of Resistance before Boal.
Abdias Nascimento's work
Theatre and political activism

Arturos Quilombo

First Quilombo speaking about medicine man passing of covid 19.
First Quilombo community with picture of son slave that escaped to freedom by starting the community.
Possibly include video of opening ceremony of drumming

Evandro Passa

Theatre for Social Change
Interview with Evandro Passa
Video of a performance
Theatre of resistance
His work in the Quilombos
Theatre of the Oppressed - evolving
Created in a Racial Democracy
Expanded to include racism
Evolved after Boal's death in 2009
Current efforts in Brazil
Possible secure video of examples of his performances in Brazil.
Seek scripts and other performances from Quilombos.

The African Contribution to Contemporary Brazilian Society
-Gilberto Leal

Use Brazilian facts on race and society and incorporate them into themes monologues, or program for educational material.

Theater of the Oppressed-
Prof. Taiana Lemos UFBA

Incorporating Boal's Image and Forum Theatre approaches into presentation. Including a monologue of how Brazilian Theater of the Oppressed changed after inclusion or racism and then after Boal's death in 2009 - TO reorganized. NEED POWERPOINT. Licko Turle - First Black organizer for TO

Environmental Racism, Pandemic in the Indigenous and African Communities- Prof. Diosmar Santanna

Forum Theatre event - about pandemic's impact on indigenous **Impact** communities. Or the pandemics' impacts.

Midiartivism: art and media in favor of social causes - Prof. Ricardo Freitas _UNEB

Interesting and Uninteresting art - monologue

Demonstration/Lecture: Capoeira Mestre Valmir

Capoeira
Master's speech of movement comes from the inside out. (not sure if recorded, but could interview him)
Possible demonstration moment of capoeira by students or professionals. Wonderful lighting moment using circle lighting.

Candomblé Ceremony

How it was developed?
Connection to Catholic Faith
Terrorism occurs because of evangelicals. Religious Intolerance = Religious Crime
Possible connection to Ceremony - dance/trance moment? Concerns but it's an idea.

Black Women in Politics - Víviam Caroline SPM (State Secretariat for Women Policies)

Turn some lectures into a brief monologue or dramatize a moment of it. 7/18: Women in Politics - focusing on violence is real.
Idea: Giant pictures of politicians, have voice over describing violence and oppression - Have students create Image theatre piece during it. Boal's technique.

The History of Samba -Prof. Katharina Doring_ UNEB

Inspiration: The Samba - possible dance moment in performance piece of students doing a Samba following a video of a Brazilian doing it. Possibly have that Brazilian be hired and teach students. But during the dance, have retro-slow grade lighting impact that slows movement down and voice over/narrator speaks about how Samba originated, how Quilombo's use the Samba and create music.
Possible connecting to drumming. Samba Music -
Overview of all the different types
The rhythm of samba carries through to different types. A special feeling that connects all Samba music. The spirit of Samba.

Bossa Nova - Harlei Eduardo

Musical moment - possible video of a performance.
Have a live musician. Possible recording.
Possible image theatre - students creating while it plays.

Drum Circle Event

Incorporate live drumming into different parts of the piece, possible as traditions, possible as the opening experience.

Portuguese Classes

Incorporate moments of Portuguese into piece, possible a sober moment and a moment of miscommunication - two separate monologues.

7/18 Quilombo

Spreading of leaves, prayer to honor ancestries. Candomblé rituals
Land rights summary: process, 1/5000 have it.
Explain the documents we saw; how close they are.
Include quote from current Brazil president that compares people to animals. Include map of quilombo communities (Fulbright project)
Possible a floor projection of Brazil, narrowing down to a map of this Quilombo. Pointing out the prison. Pointing out the dump site.

Bossa Nova - Harlei Eduardo

Possibly include a song from Harlei Eduardo in context with a monologue from the experience that connection to the people of Bahia.

Boipeba

Thinking on how to connect this weekend experience with the project. The beauty of the lush forests, beaches and water ARE Brazil. Thinking on this...

Cinematic Voices - Daiane Silva with Public Library & Movie theater Complex where she's working now.

Folklore Show

Afro-Brazilian Masculinity: Issues of Race and Culture - Prof. Márcio André _UNILAB

Potential monologue or forum theatre piece on Black Masculinity. Three ideas developed during lecture all surrounding police brutality issues that were discussed from photos in the PowerPoints.

- Experiences
 - The Ocean- sounds
 - Monologue(s) on food
 - Music
 - Drumming in the streets
 - Portuguese class song - music
 - Use melody and write new song
 - Olodum - Carnival
 - Samba
 - Jongo

- Capoeira
- Additional In-depth Interviews:
 - Select a few lecturers or presenters and further interview them
 - Transcribe interviews – turn in to monologues – NEED recordings of lectures.
 - Questions – Interview
 - Portuguese readings – Actor performing Imagine theatre to them!!!
 - Possible further interviews:
 - Alex (Portugues teacher on his poetry art),
 - Alaye his work with Quilmobo
 - Evandro Sasso follow up interview
 - Vivan (Politician)
 - Quilombo son
- Fulbright Experiences
 - Interview members of the Fulbright group to offer personal reflection on moment that impacted the most.
 - Possible survey with questions, so responses can be shared during presentation.
- Covid-19 Impact
 - On the trip
 - On the Quilombos
 - On Bahia
- Humor of the trip
 - Stories of a gay libra
 - Chapters
 - Embarrassing issues: Motion sickness, covid issues, food issues.

Connect project with other Fulbright presentations current or former.

- Silent museum idea
- Bahia Ribbon idea

Is there a connection with the Charles H Wright Museum of African American History?

Could the project occur in the theater there, while other Fulbright presentations are throughout the museum?

Grant funding possible?

Are your guiding questions still relevant? Any new questions, list them?

I need to reassess my questions, most of them still apply. Since the project is now really based off of the experience and what we learned, I need to think through this to have a better list of questions.

What information do you need to obtain before departing Brazil. Schedule time with anyone?

Recordings from lectures and experiences.

PowerPoints from lectures.

Pictures from everyone for resources for everyone.

Timeline:

August 15, 2022 – receive all PowerPoints and recordings.

September 30, 2022 – transcribe recordings and interviews.

October 15, 2022 - Script outline and arch development.

November 30, 2022 - Finalize script

January 10, 2022 - Theatre for Social Change Class begins

March 15, 2022 - Rehearsals for Unheard Voices: Afro-Brazilian Diaspora begins

Performances:

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