

Report

Accents and Access

Lucy Skilbeck, 15 February 2015

This is was chance to think about how the accent we have is a signifier of class/education/upbringing , what it means to speak 'properly' and how we use language.

SDUK can support by:

By inviting each theatre/ company/ organisation to produce a transparent document detailing:

- How best to approach them, what level you should be at before approaching them, what their maternity policy is, what their assistant directing policy is, what their recruitment policies are. This would give directors a grounding from which they can approach theatres in a meaningful way in order for both parties to make the most out of the conversation and using a shared language.

We spoke about:

- Accents: class, region, upbringing, education, use of language.
- What are our preconceptions about accent, how many of the RDUK members are not based in the south/ have regional voices?
- Do we chose to work with people who share our world view/ language choices? How does education affect this- OxBridge training can give you a confidence/network/dexterity of using language. How to we encourage diversity in our language choices we use and of the scripts we produce - who's voice are we speaking?

- People who currently have a voice in theatre can champion those who don't as much
- this is happening more often we think, but is taking a long time.
- When you first start out there are lots of women at an emerging level. By the time we reach the top of the 'scale' - where are all the women? Where did they go? Why did they go? What can we do to facilitate this better?
- When meeting buildings/ directors - Directors can ask 'in order to make the most of this conversation- what do you need to know'
- Having diversity in language is important and exciting
- A 'glossary' could be useful - eg in funding using the 'right' words such as 'legacy' and 'strategic' can help with funding applications. Using the same terminology as your peers can get better results.

Tags:

transparency, Access, access, Diversity, diversity