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AS IF...

THE PROJECT

SOM OM...

As if... explores the dialogue between the abstract art object and the child's dramatic play. Sculptural elements function as theatre props, scenery and dramatic figures in the *as if...* world of both children and adults. In this project artistic abstractions given the shape of geometrical figures will appear between the fictitious world and the concrete dramatic action.

As if... is a cooperation with the sculptor Ola Enstad. His art objects are developed from basic geometrical figures as the prism and the cube. By dividing these into several evocative forms, he creates a transformative medium by which the child can express feelings and thoughts in its own *as if...* world - the dramatic play.

According to the projects underlying philosophy and art view, it is important to develop a methodology that secures an open and caring communication in the act of exploration.

Teachers in the theatre arts will explore methods in which the children develop dramatic actions, sound, dance, texts and scenery that reflects the child's inner landscape of thoughts, dreams and feelings. The methods and the products will be documented and published in due course.

As if... is organised by *Mental Barnhjelp* (Mental Aid for Children) and is directed by Theatre Director Helge Reistad and Dance/Choreographer Leif Hernes, Oslo, Norway.

Several trained drama teachers in kinder gardens / nursery schools, and actors in theatre groups in Oslo, are involved in the project.

The project *As if...* is supported by *Institusjonen Fritt Ord* (Institution Free Words) and *Norsk Kulturråd* (The Norwegian Council for Cultural Affairs).

The project presented some of its findings at the first international conference of *Reserching Drama and Theatre in Education*, April 10-13, 1995 at Exeter University, England, and at the *IPSCAN V. European Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect*, May 13-16, 1995 in Oslo, Norway.

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