

Breaking the Silence and Rewriting the Script

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Abstract : This paper examined the role of drama in the lives of four women. The researcher concluded that drama can be an avenue of healing and could be an effective means of social work intervention in the communities as well as female empowerment. The participants in the study were able to, through the dramatic process; re-write their life's scripts by resolving paradoxes and conflicts related to the themes unearthed. The research conducted examined the role of drama in the lives of four women living in volatile communities in Jamaica, who were each exposed to violence in one, or multiple, forms. The women were trained by Sistren Theatre Collective in the use of drama for education (edutainment), and were actresses in Sistren's street theatre drama group. Using their own personal and collective experiences, they used drama to raise social consciousness at the community level, about violence and other issues affecting women. The study employed a narrative case study approach and was grounded in a constructivist paradigm. This paradigm was coupled with a basic interpretive qualitative method and the concept of the reflective practitioner provided the foundation for the analysis. Through individual conversations with the women, themes of abuse, resilience, self-esteem, and empowerment arose sharply. The women explored drama and understood it to be instrumental in healing different aspects of their lives. Also, through the dramatic process; they were able to re-write their life's scripts by resolving paradoxes and conflicts related to the themes unearthed.

Keywords : women, drama, healing, community

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