Here is the Place

Introduction

What is Larp?

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How to Play

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Role-play and the Social Body

Therapeutic and educational research suggests that human thought is driven by the body as much as by the mind. To explain: when you have an emotional issue, you can use the body to express what you feel. The body is also used to express empathy during therapeutic dialogue in order to understand and relate to others. The body encourages open-mindedness by making people think about difference, acceptance, trust and empathy.

Larping encourages an active participation in the process of understanding, acceptance, and empathy to work more through the body. Lars also relates to the expression of a spirit of equality and non-hierarchy. Learning is always grounded in the physical and the social, therefore demands a shift in learning from an individual to a collaborative process.

The social learning processes required by larp are characterized by: becoming non-hierarchical, involving students in decision-making processes; being open to the possibility that learning is informed by social activity. Non-hierarchical learning can extend beyond the confines of the self, bringing the body into proximity or contact with other bodies. Experience and education need to be expanded from the physical into the social and vice versa. Enhancing the social activity of larp opens the door for more freedom of thought and practice.

The final group discussion is an integral part of the game. This creates an opportunity for groups of learners to express their findings and understanding and to think about how to apply these to their own lives.