

## **Worldwide Virtual Theatre Carousel**

Friday the first of April at 13:30-17:00 o'clock

By: Evelien van de Sanden

One of the aspects of community art is the communication between an artist and participants, but what about the communication between the different community art companies? They almost only meet at festivals like ICAF. So too did Mia Grijp from Belgium, Rosalba Rolón from New York USA, Arturo Meija from Peru and Oupa Malatjie from South Africa. They all met at the ICAF of 2003. They kept in touch after that and found a way of working with each other, without having to leave their country too much: The Worldwide Virtual Theatre Carousel.

Now what the WVTC includes is too much to share with you in as little words as this piece will contain, but the basics can be explained as follows: four community art companies created a community online, where they can share their ideas and performances with the other three companies. They can discuss about the same topics, and share perspectives from different cultures and compare and broaden their own ideas and methods. They even make performances together!

For example, during the workshop, six of us made two very short scenes about three teenagers and their interests, starting with hiding behind a cloth. Teenagers from Peru, Belgium and New York had made scenes with the same concept, filmed it, and put it online at the virtual community. Putting all these films together you can see the differences and similarities between the cultures. This is a wonderful tool to bring people from all over the world together to share and learn.

Today was the launch of the website ([www.worldcarousel.org](http://www.worldcarousel.org)), after eight years of building trust and creating. There can be a difficulty in providing internet in more isolated countries and keeping it personal, but they are open to the developments that will come. It was very nice to see that they have the patience and dedication to make it happen, and to make it grow in the coming years.