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The Story, the Stage and the Group

By: Inbar Barazani & Eti Gary

Research shows that working with fairytales can be meaningful and helpful for creating a secure and distant environment, thus allowing observation and processing of emotional substance. This qualitative study examined how using fairytale with on-stage dramatic work, impacted the experience of 14 women who participated nonprofessionally in a Community Theater. The women read the tale before the group meeting, during which they were asked to perform sections of the tale in small groups. Later on they were asked to fill a reflection questioner. The findings of this research include four main themes: The encounter of the tale with the participant's personal life and its contribution to it, the connection to the character which deepened the affective experience, the relationships within the feminine group as a motivating force, and the positive reaction to the process from both perspectives: that of a performer and that of an audience. Each theme described a different aspect of the participant's experience and clarified the importance of working in groups with fairytales and theatre.

Keywords: fairytales in therapy, on-stage work, drama therapy, women group.

Corresponding author: Eti Gary eti1986@gmail.com