

A junior school theatre studio as a way of integrating students of different nationalities

LOCATION: EL Ejido (Almería)

DURATION: 1'34"

SUMMARY: The Francisco Montoya High School in El Ejido is one of the few junior theatre groups in Spain which is made up of different nationalities. Through rehearsals and improvisations this theatre studio has gone beyond the stage and has turned into an integration tool for students from other countries. These young people are an example of overcoming difficulties and thanks to interpretation they've managed to excellently fulfil their best role, their own lives.

VTR:

Background: "Things far from your country, from your family, from home, they're hard to..."

This is a very special theatre studio, because it's one of the few junior theatre groups in Spain that is filled with immigrants from various countries. They're students from the Francisco Montoya Secondary School in El Ejido. Here theatre is crossing boundaries and is becoming an integration tool.

ESTELA AGUILERA
Theatre Group Scriptwriter

"We try to get the students to connect, in different ways and even if they're from the same country. We use theatre as a way of bringing them together."

They use the theatre to help the students. This is the case of Othman who has overcome his stammer and his fear of public expression.

OTHMAN AZBYR
Student

"I've spent four years in the theatre and it's helped me to integrate in lots of different ways, to meet people and make friends."

Or Souhaila who having left behind her native Morocco, has been helped greatly with the support of her classmates.

SOUHAILA ED DARDAR
Student

"I arrived from Morocco and I had no problem because I got on well with my classmates, they helped me a lot and they help me learn."

The teachers notice improvements each year, both in expression and above all in coexistence.

CARMELO AGUILERA
Theatre Group Director

"They might look for each other in the playground, join in, tell each other things, like they're already connecting."

For the students the rehearsals have turned into an important date each week.

NOHAILA BADI
Student

"I come here because I like it and because it helps me meet more people as I'm a little shy."

Young people that are an example of overcoming challenges and thanks to interpretation they have managed to excellently fulfil their best role: their own lives.