

Anu Tähemaa Walpurgis Night

Introduction

Anu Tähemaa's "**Online Creativity Class for children**" is offered via Zoom and is in Estonian, a language that probably only very few of us can speak and understand.

In this contribution, Anu presents excerpts from an online class with a mixed group of children, which initially was created at the beginning of the current Covid-19 lockdown to be offered to parents and their children of different schools, cities, countries or even continents.

The objective to create this online class was to offer families an opportunity, that their children can forget about the lockdown restrictions and home-schooling agendas to enjoy an interactive, creative and casual session with other Estonian-speaking children in isolation.

The video comes with English subtitles, so let's follow this lively, creative teaching method and enjoy the opportunity to observe the children's reactions and interactive communication.

Short description about the group

The **initial group includes children from Tallinn Rahumäe School**, where Anu has been teaching Creativity for over 20 years. This after school group is a mixture of children, age 7-12, who meet once a week to discover and embrace their creativity.

The attending children are not selected by any specific skills or talents. This group is put together randomly - from very gifted children to children with special needs. They learn creative movement, singing, storytelling, acting, instrumental playing and meditation. Anu's work proves how the combination of arts, supportive environments and psychology can help and develop young individuals to enjoy and to get better at school and in life.

The **Online Creativity Class via Zoom** started on April 2nd, 2020. Beforehand a press release through Estonian news and social media channels, as well via Estonian embassies in different countries had been sent out, which brought additional children and teachers from other places together with the initial class from Rahumäe School.

In the shown videos' children are 6-10 years old. Some of them already knew each other, but some of them participated the first time. The class is moderated by Anu currently from Zurich and her assistant Eva, being in Tallinn. They also have the third person involved, who supports the session technically.

Intention of the selected theme and the class

The class was recorded on April 30th, the last day in April, when based old Estonian tradition the Walpurgis Night is celebrated and is followed by Walpurgis Day, the day of wisdom and magic. All little and old witches in our class, prepared themselves for the festive night to demonstrate their magical skills in full confidence.

The goal for this class is to feed the children with fantasy, emotions, expression through movement and instrumental playing by keeping their minds busy and bodies active.

Youtube Video Links

[Online Creativity Class with Anu Tähemaa with ENG SUB \(Part 1\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Chgl2igdWj4&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1el2-qJ4heoLTBNFNOJagGP84Bg8YpspITqP9DltsS41qWlxZ7Dcu0VQA)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Chgl2igdWj4&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1el2-qJ4heoLTBNFNOJagGP84Bg8YpspITqP9DltsS41qWlxZ7Dcu0VQA>

[Online Creativity Class with Anu Tähemaa with ENG SUB \(Part 2\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4jpO18F5QE&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2kTVhPV3gnP0dr6BmSOHMCCz4_-Y16SAKAZeY0YP2vG-ajCD3_aAtvOks)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4jpO18F5QE&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2kTVhPV3gnP0dr6BmSOHMCCz4_-Y16SAKAZeY0YP2vG-ajCD3_aAtvOks

Subject: Youtube - Subtitle function/button ("CC" bottom right)

Procedure

- The "finger play" is based on weekdays in Estonian: Esmaspäev, teisipäev, kolmapäev, neljapäev, reede, laupäev, pühapäev! Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday!
- The days were repeated in different actions. Fingerplay, makeup session, warm-up, movement, until playing the drums at the end.
- The weekdays give them the freedom and opportunity to improvise with rhythms and present a solo to other children at the end of the session.
- By using words to describe characters, I help them to create feelings in their imaginations to forget their surroundings and to feed their fantasy.
- The week phrase exercise with fingertips teaches them to focus while listening to music and describing the photos at the end of the class.
- As we are not able to travel at the moment, we still can visit each other by taking a photo of what we can see out of our window at home and sharing this with others during the next class while listening to music together.

Tips for teachers, who want to be better prepared for interactive online teaching

- The interactive online class is demanding. Children are very smart and want to test everything possible the new Zoom application offers. It is very important to define the computer settings in advance of the session and give children a clear understanding of the do's and don'ts, when and what is welcomed and how to behave.
- Virtual breakout-rooms for group work are of great help to the children to learn to communicate and express themselves with others one-on-one and in smaller groups. This keeps them involved and active.
- The chat function which Zoom offers is useful to collect feedback of the results from their group work. As the chat itself will not be shown in the recorded video, it therefore is important to say out aloud what they wrote in the chat. The chat history is saved in a separate text file for documentation purpose.
- It is important to keep students interactive during the class. This gives them the feeling to be seen and heard by the teacher and other children.
- To keep the class in a good "flow", it is recommended (luxury) to have at least one assistant or technical support, who will communicate with participants during the class and help them to solve their tasks to better enjoy your class.
- To help younger children to feel technically safe and enjoy their class better, it is always useful to ask parents to support their children with the technical setup of Zoom.

About Anu Tähemaa



Anu has an extensive and multidisciplinary background as a professional music director, teacher, educator, conference speaker, movie casting director, program manager, artistic director & founder of different international festivals and organizations.

Based on her diverse set of capabilities and interests it has brought her to the international arena as a **Strategic Advisor for Creative Leaders**. She loves to create and test new formats of training and events to help students, teachers and leaders to **become better**. Anu is using Performing Arts as a tool to combine leadership and psychology in a creative and meaningful way to enhance leadership skills in their professional and every-day lives.

More information

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