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It Only Takes a Spark...

It is 2014. Planning my class to introduce Grotowski

in a single, three hour session

[university versus conservatoire – there is no time to teach practice]

I should do a theory class on his pedagogy

[the irony focusses the mind]

Via negativa.

Teaching students to privately acknowledge embodied blocks, encourages them to
acknowledge their ontology.

They might have the courage to live their histories in performance, not negate them.

[Bella Merlin taught me to walk the *via negativa* – I can teach my students to encounter
memory through walking]

Eyes closed, step 1: immediate memory

Step 2: 5 years ago

... step 6: earliest memory

This private time is necessary for truthful encounter within the ensemble.

In 2014, the students walk and remember. Positive class feedback, but what is achieved in
encountering self remains private. In 2020, one student writes and reflects:

“Your introduction to Grotowski made all the difference.”

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practitioner