WHAT’S THE VALUE OF LIVE PERFORMANCE?

Date: Friday, April 10, 2015, 4 - 5:30 p.m.
Location: Yavapai College, Sedona Center (OLLI)

Facilitated by: Dr. Russ Pryba, NAU Department of Philosophy

Attendance: 4

The conversation opened by asking participants how often they engaged in live performance. The answers ranged from weekly to rarely.

Before answering the question of what experiences are aesthetically pleasing, an important point was shared that it must be taken into account who is doing the performance and what audience it is for. These factors can change how one valued the performance. It was then shared that a broad distinction can be made between form and content. The question as to where value lies was brought up. Participants shared that one way to find value in live performance as a consumer, is if that performance elicited an emotional response or bred enlightenment as a way to see a different point of view. Along with that is the statement that performances may please one individual but not please another depending on the needs of the individual in that particular moment.

The conversation then moved as to how one determines success in live performance. It was shared that success in live performance can be determined by engagement. Whether this be anger, happiness or sadness, eliciting an emotional response is better than receiving no response. The value in live performance can also be found when listening to other viewpoints as a way to better understand your own viewpoints and recognize your own biases.

Points shared in relation to the question of your experience with live art performance being more enriching than those dealing with recorded/digital media were that live performance is harder to disengage from as there is an obligation to the performers where there is not necessarily that same obligation with recorded/digital media. Live performance can be considered a safe way to have a live conversation with others in our surroundings because of the one common interest, that common interest being the live performance and the experiences shared in that moment. One experience in live performance that differs from recorded/digital media, is the realization that no one is perfect and the simple fact that there are no do-overs in live performance.
In that same token, it can be argued that similar experiences the audience shares in live performance are also be shared in recorded/digital media. In fact, even arts that are not live can still very much serve the purposes human beings need. Ultimately, these two factors are two completely different components and it cannot be concluded if one is better or worse due to the different environments we are in and the different personalities we have.

Live Performance as well as a blending of all different types of performances contribute to a well-lived life and healthy communities by bringing people together and seeing the possibility of participatory movements.