

Abstract

This study explored the relationships between empathy, identification, psychological processes and intention with a theatre focus. Specifically, using the Greek theatrical drama *Magic Tree* as a vehicle, this study investigated if identification would mediate between empathy subtypes (i.e. fantasy, empathic concern, perspective-taking & personal distress), psychological processes (i.e. spiritual value, self-efficacy, reward for application, fate control, learning and discovering as motivational factors, and personal self-fulfilment as motivational factors) and the intention of altruistic behaviours. 864 local school students (405 males and 446 females) responded to a paper-based survey after attending a live Drama *Magic Tree*, produced by Pop Theatre. It was hypothesized that both viewers' cognitive and affective empathy would positively predict identification with a character. It was also hypothesized that identification would impact on attitude and behaviours by mediating between empathy, psychological processes and intention of altruistic behaviours. Results showed that cognitive empathy would positively predict identification with a character. For affective empathy, only empathic concern, but not personal distress, was found to predict identification. Moreover, identification did act as both full and partial mediator between empathy, psychological processes and the intention of altruistic behaviours. It was concluded that fantasy, empathic concern and perspective-taking are the antecedents of identification, and identification does influence our psychological processes and intention of behaviours.