



**Transnational workshop, laboratory and networking**

**Information Kit 4/2022**

**Project coordinator: theater: playstation, Hamburg**

**Cooperation partner: *Fabrika12, Valencia, Near East, Lublin, Tools for Culture, Rome, Teatar Don Hihot, Zagreb***

- Development of future culture projects
- Public presentations on artistic practice under difficult conditions.
- Topic: European role models and identity figures in theatre work
- How to work with cultural activities against populism and intolerance?
- Open to everybody who works with theatre and performance
- Especially for artists, educators and cultural activists, also students
- Concrete tools for the implementation of cultural projects
- The workshop fee is covered by a grant
- erasmus+ is funding travel costs and accommodation

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## **1. The topic: Identity figures**

Nationalism, populism and intolerance are global problems that affect Europe at its core. In this project we are particularly interested in the cultural dimension of this.

Because our image of Europe is shaped - more than by politicians or political programmes - by identity-generating figures who are more likely to be associated with art, culture and intellectual life.

Figures such as Cervantes, Shakespeare, Einstein, Simone de Beauvoir, Marie Curie, da Vinci, Goethe - artists, scientists and explorers stand for an European identity and forms of cosmopolitanism. All these figures show tolerant perspectives that can create identity.

Cultural identity is always the result of concrete personal experiences - part of one's life story. Contemporary theatre often deals - for example in documentary concepts and in participatory projects, with biographical aspects, with the personal experiences of the participants.

Through contemporary theatrical approaches, writing exercises and improvisations, personal experiences can be transferred to famous personalities. This gives the opportunity for young people to reflect on their own roots and social situation and to express them artistically.

At the same time, the theatre work makes a historical figure part of ones own personal experience.

The list of identity figures is long and contains many inspiring and also surprising names. It also shows how little we know about each other in these matters in Europe.

Who are identity figures in Latvia, Hungary or Portugal? Which Greek heroes are there, apart from those of classical dramas?

Already in the search for figures it becomes clear how national our thinking still is - and how the names of men are initially in the majority. In this respect, elements of research are necessary: Which female identity figures are there? Which are of non-European origin? What about more contemporary or current figures? And what Afro-European role-models are there?

The artistic means by which we approach these questions is performance and theatre work. The project is open for everyone who works with young people and is interested in theatre and performance, especially artists and cultural mediators, people teaching theatre and dance, as well as pedagogics and students.

In workshops, discussions and accompanying events, they deal with the question of how to approach the topics outlined above in theatre and performance work.



Young performer in Hamburg in a project about the youth of Goethe and his sister Cornelia

## 2. Workshops

Our main activity are workshops, which will be held in Valencia, South Italy, Lublin and Hamburg in 2019 and 2020. They will last 4 - 5 days. Around 18 participants from different European countries will take part.

The workshops are led by internationally experienced theatre and performance artists, cultural mediators and cultural managers (see below).

They teach creative techniques, research tools, writing exercises, physical exercises, scenic improvisation and playing with improvisos, work with theatre texts, dramaturgical questions and play development, the use of masks, dance and music.

All this with a very clear practical orientation: Scenes, monologues, songs and choreographies are developed and presented to each other with professional help.

Together we explore ways to implement this practice in neighbourhood projects, schools, universities and other institutions.

The workshops build on each other, but are set up in a way that it's also possible to attend part of them.

More details on the contents of the workshops can be found below.

Important aspects are also the networking of the participants and insights into concrete projects based on the idea of mutual learning. The participants come from numerous, sometimes very different countries and institutions. They get to know each other in the workshops, work together, exchange experiences and backgrounds.

In addition, we present practices with which they can meet and get to know exemplary projects during excursions and lectures. In addition, we present tools for administrative things such as financing, application and project implementation.

At the end of the last two workshops, showings of the results will take place, basically for colleagues and friends of the participants.

Other public formats such as discussions, lectures and performances by the participating artists also serve this purpose.



How to represent Karl Marx? Work with paper-masks in Frankfurt

### 3. Contents of the workshops

#### 1st workshop, Lublin, 27–30 June 2019

##### Focus: Improvisation

- Play with status types and situations based on Keith Johnstone
- Contemporary performance theatre (With special reference to Forced Entertainment and She She Pop)
- Text-improvisation in contemporary dance theatre
- Scenic improvisation based on identity figures
- Text development through improvisation

#### 2nd workshop, Squillace, Italy, 25-29 September 2019

##### Focus: Text development

- Creative writing techniques
- Writing exercises and research - Site specific (Using techniques of the Goat Island Performance Group Chicago)
- Development of improvisos
- Research techniques, - Working with songs

**Always flexibel!  
Improvisation and  
the question of  
hierachy**

**Create content!  
Develop text and  
story for  
contemporary  
theater**

### 3rd workshop, Valencia, Fabrika12, 6-10 November 2019

#### Focus: Forming a play

- Development of monologues and scenes from biographical material
- Dramaturgical questions and play development
- Dance and movement theatre
- Development and presentation of small performances

**Get a play!  
Dramatic  
structure, scenes  
and plays**

### 4th workshop, Hamburg, 2-5 April 2020

#### Focus: Development of future culture projects

- Public presentations on artistic practice under difficult conditions.
- Workshops on performance and theatre skills
- Creating cultural activities against populism and intolerance
- Concrete tools for the implementation of cultural projects
- Intense networking sessions

**Create a project!  
How to direct and  
implement  
performances**

The meetings are set up in a way that it makes sense to take them one after the other, but it is also possible to take part in individual work blocks.

Participants who have fully participated in at least three units will receive a certificate.

## **4. Practical questions / schedule**

For workshops we will meet two times a day for 3-4 hours, in addition to supplementary activities such as discussion rounds, lectures, performances etc.

Most workshop inputs come from the team of theater: playstation, with David Chotjewitz, Katharina Oberlik and Mable Preach, among others. In addition, there are artists from the partner institutions such as actress and director Ita Aagaard from Valencia. Domenica Moscato from Italy and Lukasz Wójtowicz from Poland, both experienced project managers, will not only lead the organisational work in their countries, but also pass on experience to the participants in talks and workshop units.

### **Workshop-Conductors**



#### **David Chotjewitz, Hamburg**

*Workshop-conductor, lectures*

Born in Berlin, raised in Rome, writer and director. Published plays and novels about Albert Einstein and "Daniel Half Human", which also received international acclaim. After working as assistant director at the Schauspielhaus Hamburg and Burgtheater Vienna he founded theatre: playstation in Hamburg and instigated several performances on Kampnagel ("BLUT on the Dancefloor", "Narcissus and the Revolution" and others). His works have been awarded several times. In recent years he has developed transnational projects such as "Ministry for Favorite Songs" and developed new forms of creative mediation of theatre, literature, music and performance with cultural and educational institutions throughout Germany and Europe.

### **Katharina Oberlik, Hamburg**

Choreography, performance coach

Born 1968, she studied theatre, film and television studies in Frankfurt and applied theatre studies in Giessen, co-founded She She Pop, Germany's first female performance collective and moves as a performer and director through the broad fields of theatre, performance art, music, dance and video art.

She teaches performance for actors and directors and builds the Ghettoakademie in Wilhelmsburg, a youth ensemble for performance and music.

She has worked on numerous Playstation projects, most recently "The living Jukebox"



### **Mable Preach, Hamburg**

Born in 1982, her family escaped from Ghana due to political persecution. She spent all her youth in refugee camps, in France and Belgium, then in Hamburg. Coming from a Ghanaian preacher family, she came into contact with gospel singing early and began to rap herself. Through her interest in African dance, she came to hip-hop and became one of Hamburg's top hip-hop choreographers. She studied media management and worked for several years as A&R in a record company. She joined theater: playstation and took part as an actress and singer, among others "Blut on the Dancefloor" (2002) and "Stirb, Popstar, Stirb" (2003). She soon began to stage her first plays and worked with Yves Tuvis, Showcase beat le mot, She She pop, Barner16, Hajusom and many others.

Lukulule developed under her leadership into a centre for urban arts with approx. 200 participants and 30 artists. In recent years, her artistic work has increasingly turned to anti-racism, and in 2014 she launched the FlüchtlINK project.

She has directed at the Schauspielhaus and Kampnagel, and since 2012 has produced large-scale youth musicals with Lukulule, such as "Soul Train" and "12 Yards".

### **Ita Aagaard, Valencia**



Workshop acting and voice training

Ita, born in the Netherlands as the daughter of a Norwegian and a Spaniard is a very special acting teacher, director and choreographer.

She studied theatre in Paris, directed the Zéro Théâtre and toured throughout Europe. Since 2000 she has lived in Valencia, where she managed both "Ex Voto Producciones" and the "Nómada teatre". She directed over 20 productions at the theatre school "Off" in Valencia, including "La paz perpetua" by Juan Mayorga, and, in cooperation with theater: playstation, Songs from a telephone box 2009-2010.

Since 2016, she has been head of the "Voz Coach Teatral" programme as well as a speech teacher and coach for public speeches.



### **Lana Bitenc, Zagreb**

*Creative writing, theatre with children and special people*

Lana Bitenc is a playwright, dramaturg and professional actress. She is also a graduate professor of Comparative literature and Italian language. She's towards the end of her PhD thesis "Theater methodology with deaf-blind people". Her Bedtime stories are regularly performed at Croatian radio1 (HR1). On famous TV show "Zuhra show" she worked as a screenwriter.

She founded theater Don Hihot in Zagreb together with actor Otokar Levaj. Their repertoire consists of plays for children and teenagers, but also comedies for adults. They perform in theatres, classrooms, halls, gyms, cultural centres, squares. Their plays like "Bee, be carefull" (2010), Bunnyman (2011) or "Adam & Eve in the front of the hell" (2013) are based on the humorous characters and story, and some of them offer an interaction with audience. Lana has participated in the European Ministry For Favourite Songs where she presented the show "Who stole my Lullaby".

### **Pawel Passini, Poland**

Theatre director and the art director of neTTTheatre company (which is part of Centrum Kultury, production house where we stay for workshops and meeting in Lublin). Hosting partner for the Laboratory Lublin.

### **Domenica Moscato, Cosenza, Italy**

Project Management Italy and Spain

Freelance project manager and senior expert of European programmes in the field of creative and cultural projects and social entrepreneurship.

She worked for many organisations, companies and public institutions and is currently engaged in a European partnership running a two-year Erasmus+ strategic partnership for trainers and facilitators in young entrepreneurial education that aims at valorisation of common goods.

She completed a four-months project under the European Programme "Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs" in collaboration with Collage Arts, a London-based cultural hub, in 2016.

In 2010, she was selected among 30 Italian young people for the training programme "La sQuola", focused on creative and cultural industries.

Currently she is a PhD student in Architecture and Territory at the University "Mediterranea" of Reggio Calabria.

### **Łukasz Wójtowicz, Lublin, Poland**

Projektmanagement in Poland and Germany

\*1987; culture manager, theater producer, intercultural trainer.

Graduated from Public Administration and Culture Pedagogic faculty UMCS in Lublin. Event creator and manager since 2009, manager and producer for Net Theatre, Lublin. This company, directed by Paweł Passini, presents theatre in temporary online settings and runs its activities within the structure of Culture Centre Lublin and Artists Association NEAR EAST.

Net Theatre produced performances in cooperation with Polish Radio in Warszawa, Gorzkie Żale Festival, Grotowski Institute and Theatre Academy Dep. in Wrocław, Theatre Institute in Warszawa and many others.

The company presented more than 100 performances and concerts around Poland and abroad,

among others a tour 'The HIDEOUT' realized in Tianjin and Harbin (China).

Latest performances (among others): 2018: (in progress) 'Let's Dance Zofia' dir. J. Lewicka, Centre of the Meeting of Cultures Lublin, coproduction Artists Association Near East and Centre of the Meeting of Cultures. 2016: 'The Box' dir. P. Passini, Wrocławski Teatr Współczesny in Wrocław / Theatre Olympics Festival / Grotowski Institute in Wrocław. Lukas took part in the transnational networking-project "Music was my first Love".

**And many more!**

## Places of the Workshop

**Centrum Kultury, Lublin**, is an important place for local history and Independent theatre heritage. Here we find workshop rooms and a small stage. The Centrum Kultury is in the middle of the city, with many hostels, hotels, restaurants around.



**Squillace, Italy (Calabria)**, is a small town of around 3.500 inhabitants. The original centre stands on three hills about 344 meters above sea level. It is located above the gulf on the Ionian sea, close to the International Airport of Lamezia Terme. The area around Squillace and the town itself are very beautiful. The location for the workshop is located in the old centre of Squillace, they also offer cheap accomodation and food for participants.

## **Fabrika12, Valencia, Spain**

Cultural association for the management and promotion of a former shoe factory in the heart of Valencia. It hosts a wide variety of cultural events, artistic workshops and exhibitions.

Since 2015, fabrika12 has been running the cine club goethe in Valencia, a regular series of German films in collaboration with the goethe institut and the Centro Aleman.

The institution coordinated the project implementation of the "European Ministry for Favorite Songs" 2013-15 in Spain.

## THEATER: PLAYSTATION

Founded in 2000, has implemented projects with young rappers, singers, dancers, musicians and performers. The focus is on the power, authenticity and joy of playing of the young people and at the same time the search for artistically demanding and experimental implementations.

Texts, scenes, songs and choreographies are created in conversations, improvisations and rehearsals. The aim is to create music-theatre projects with an open, rather performance-like approach in which feelings, stories, images and moods; hip-hop, dance, theatre, rock music and literary texts give a snapshot of youthful subculture.

Our piece BLUT on the DANCEFLOOR (co-production Kampnagel) was performed in 2002 in a techno disco on the Reeperbahn and then in the festival eigenarten, STIRB, POPSTAR, STIRB 2003/4 on Kampnagel Hamburg. The text developed with the young people for BLUT on the DANCEFLOOR was awarded a scholarship from the German Youth Theatre Centre, and the play was also presented as a radio feature for the SDR jungle.

Another focus of our work are personal, autobiographical elements. In 2008 the "Behörde für

Lieblingslieder" was presented as well as the sequence of scenes "goethe / liebe / sample / culture" in the Jenisch Haus. Our productions "Narcissus and the Revolution" and "The Living Jukebox" in cooperation with Kampnagel Hamburg were also highly regarded nationwide. In 2013-15, we successfully implemented a transnational project with ten partners in eight countries together with the European Ministry of Favourite Songs.

#### Near East, Lublin, Polen

Around 20 local art/culture projects realized in cooperation with other association members - photo exhibitions, graphic exhibitions, street art, visual art, video projects, music concerts, multimedia concerts. More than 50 international projects (training courses and youth exchanges) and with total number of participants (young artists, local activists, culture volunteers) more than 400 from Lublin and Poland, cofinanced by Erasmus+, Youth in Action, Program Grundtvig and Polish-German Youthwork Foundation. Author of 12-months residency project for young actors run in 2013-2014 within EVS framework. Polish part of international longterm projects: "Songs of My Neighbours" (Culture Program, 2013-2015), "Art in (E)Motion: New AIMS for non-formal learning" (Grundtvig Partnership Project, 2013-2015), "LovEarth through Arts" (Erasmus+ Adult Education KA2, 2017-2020). Collaborated with Culture Workshops in Lublin (Night of Culture Festival).

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#### Tools for Culture, Rom und Cosenza, Italien

Nonprofit organisation carrying out research, consultancy and training in the fields of economics, management and policy for the arts. Cooperation in theater projects with Teatro Vascello in Rome, Santarcangelo Theater Festival and others. Since 2009, it aims at value of creative and cultural resources. Tools for Culture provides professionals, institutions and public administrations with assistance and crafts projects able to face the emerging needs of the various areas of the cultural system.

We carry out inter-disciplinary laboratories: "Social and cultural enterprise" (Bologna), "Branding, crafting, funding" (Rome), "Crafting international strategies" (Barcelona), "Projects for urban cultures" (Milan). We worked on the elaboration of indicators for the evaluation of projects within the call "Rome Creative Province", the strategic management and fundraising plan for the "Homer" Tactile Museum in Ancona and the audience study for PalaExpo in Rome. In 2016 Tools for Culture carried out "Invisible Art", focused upon the neglected contemporary artworks being presently deposited in Milan.



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