

Spielplatz:Playground

Laboratory of Performing Arts for Youth

Düsseldorf, 29th May – 7th June 2009

We all have some nice memories about the first theater play or concert we experienced as children with our classmates or with our parents. And we are still smiling nostalgically while finding that specific play in the agenda of the children's theater from our home town. The “classic” performances are still dominating the range of performing arts shows addressed to young people in many Central and Eastern European countries. However nowadays the common kids and teenagers are generally more impressed by the latest trends in the gaming, music or fashion world than by arts and culture events. The young audience is now representing a real challenge not only for the performing arts professionals, but also for arts and culture actors, institutions and NGOs.

On this background, we – a team of young cultural managers from Central and Eastern Europe – are starting a **Laboratory of Performing Arts for Youth** called “**Spielplatz:Playground**” that will take place in **Düsseldorf** in cooperation with **tanzhaus nrw**. The Lab addresses young artists and cultural managers from the mentioned European region with an interest and/or experience in youth projects. The aim is to enable an experience exchange, as well as the development of projects encouraging the participation of the young audience from their countries in the performing arts.

“Spielplatz: Playground“ is comprising two parts running in parallel:

29th May - 7th June 2009: a **Laboratory** with a working group of selected young professionals in the field of dance, theater, stage direction, choreography, music and pedagogy: Anna Boboc (Republic of Moldova), Vassiliya Drebova (Bulgaria), Dana Olărescu (Romania), Evgenia Stefanova Sotirova (Bulgaria), Katja Verderber (Slovenia), Jonas Žabkar (Slovenia) and Mantvydas Žilinskas (Lithuania). The participants will experiment on the making of performances for a young audience and will present the experiment in an open showing. Assistance will be provided by three experienced professionals: Takao Baba (dancer, choreographer and actor), Sabine Seume (dancer and choreographer) and Amelie Jalowy (dancer, choreographer and coordinator of several dance projects).

4th - 6th June 2009: an **Open Space Meeting** of the young cultural managers Adela Demetja (Albania), Nora Dorogan (Republic of Moldova), Vilma Dzienuite (Lithuania), Veronika Lajer (Hungary), Zsófia Tasnádi (Hungary) and Andrada Vaida (Romania), on the organization and presentation of contemporary performances for a young audience in the Central and Eastern European context.

As a result of these encounters a network will be created with the participants, so they can support each other during the implementation of the project ideas launched in Düsseldorf, as well as in their future actions as multipliers in their own countries. On this note, more new events and festivals for the young audience are expected in the next years in our Central and Eastern European countries.

Contact: spielplatz09@googlemail.com, +49 177 852 01 25 (Katja Kos, tanzhaus nrw)

<http://spiel-play.blogspot.com/>



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission through the YOUTH IN ACTION Programme.

This communication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

We also thank the Robert Bosch Stiftung foundation, the Alumni network of the programme “Culture Managers from Central and Eastern Europe” and the European Cultural Foundation – STEP beyond Mobility Fund for their kind support.