Project

MUTATION

World=City

The world is becoming a city. In 2020, 63% of all people in the world will be living in cities. The global evolution of urban culture resembles „wild“ mutations: An unprecedented, rapid development in the history of mankind taking place at the same time. From Mexico-City to Sao Paolo, from Berlin to Bombay, and from Bangkok to L.A... cities create a global network. Europe is increasingly getting into the influence of this globalisation.

From a historical point of view, globalisation is nothing new. World history can be described as a constant process of globalisation. Marco Polo was a big globaliser. But today globalisation seizes not only the fate of the individual but of whole nations and continents with an unknown dynamic – it rapidly liquefies historical structures and traditional values in the entire world.

The periphery on our door step

Hello, hello – the periphery is knocking at our door. Europe can no longer assume a position in the safe centre of the world. A new urban civilisation is emerging. It produces new forms of insecurity, conflicts and crises, but also new hopes. Hopes that these developments will make it possible to return to Utopian ideals. The informal networks of production and distribution in the rampant cities of the South, the invisible job markets of the „third world“ are already regarded as a model for future forms of flexible work organisation in our part of the world.

Mutation explores this new, productive energy which appears in images of networks and currents and will fathom out its possibilities. The project MUTATION organises its own globalisation in a series of experiments in order to develop an adequate artistic practice which reflects our “presence“ in the sense of the French philosopher Michel Foucault.

The project MUTATION is mainly developed via the internet, the medium which is the driving force of globalisation. The old medium theatre uses these new productive energies and enters a process of transforming its theatrical practice. The real, local productions in theatres share the common virtual production space of MUTATION WORKSPACE (www.mutation-workspace.de) as a context for reference. Ever since May 2003, this is where local communities in all five cities on four continents exchange their approaches to „Living in the City“. The WORKSPACE has the structure of a matrix or a map of 121 topics. There are two axes, each with 11 topics describing an area or a state. A topic is created by combining an area and a state.

121 Topics: AREA/STATE:

government dying
consumption growing
relationships making
home struggle
pleasure depression
body excitement
public (no)normality
mobility together
(no)work alone
money inside
building outside

MUTATION WORKSPACE compiles an archive of texts about personal experiences and observations in an urban habitat. There are multiple ways of accessing the archive as well as an additional option for dialogue (on the „comment“ level). Workspace is an open resource for all users of the internets. To post an article in the archive, you need to log in with a password - „comments“ can be made by any user.

In the four cities Shanghai, Lagos, Richmond/Virginia and Buenos Aires, there will be respectively four artists from Berlin getting together with local artists to work on our life and our personal experiences in and with this new urban civilisation. The aim is to develop one performance in each city and to present it locally.
The development of these performances will in their content, formally and aesthetically be based on local conditions and the local situation. Because of the different artistic and social experiences of the partners in the respective cities, they will also differ.
MUTATION’s understanding of “Performance” is a crossover of theatre, performance, film, exhibition, discussion, and lecture.

Richmond/Virginia October 2003
Buenos Aires December 2003
Lagos/Nigeria February 2004
Shanghai April 2004

Concluding the project, all four productions and the collected artistic material will be united in a single event to be presented in Berlin and other cities still to be determined.

PRODUCTION SCHEDULE 2003/04
Last update:22.06.2003

2003

Berlin Rehearsal/ sophiensaele
Week 27-31 / 30.Juni-3.Aug.2003

Richmond/ Firehouse theatre project
Arrival: Week 35
Rehearsal: Week 36-40
Sept1 - Oct 05 2003
Performance:Week 41-42/Oct 09-14 2003
Departure: Week 42

Buenos Aires/UBA-Rojas
Arrival: Week 43
Rehearsal: Week 44-48
Oct 27 - Nov 30 2003
Performance: Week 49/Dec 1–7 2003
Departure: Week 50

2004

Lagos/Maison de France
Preparation / D.Cieslak + Lagos core: Week 5-6/Jan 27-Feb 08 2004
Rehearsal: Week 7/Feb 11-14 Feb 2004
Shooting: Week 8-9/Feb 16-27 2004
Postproduktion:9./10.Woche
Premiere: Mar 6 2004

Shanghai/BiZ Art Center
Workshop: Jan 07-11 2004
Arrival: Week 12
Rehearsal: Week 13-17/ Mar 22-Apr 25 2004
Performance: Week 18/ Apr 26 – May 2 2004
Departure: Week 19

Berlin/sophiensaele
Final Production:
Arrival: Week 21
Rehearsal: Week 22-24/ May 17- Jun 06 2004
Premiere: Week 25/Jun 08 2004
Performance: Week 25-26/ Jun 09-20 2004

Alternative date for final production in Berlin : September 2004.

MUTATION is a project of the actors' formation LUBRICAT in co-operation with TPA Kommunikationsdesign Berlin, Firehouse Theater Richmond/VA/USA, Universidad de Buenos Aires/ Centro Cultural Ricardo Rojas, MGP-Mutation Garage Production, Lagos, und Biz Art, Shanghai.

In co-production with sophiensaele, Berlin. With the support of ZENTRUM FÜR KULTUR UND BILDUNG SHANGHAI (Goethe Institut) and the Heinrich Boell Foundation/Nigeria Office Lagos.

Funded by Hauptstadtkulturfonds from funds of the German Federal Commissioner for Cultural and Media Affairs.

Art direction	Dirk Cieslak
Dramaturgy	Zebu Kluth
Producer	Ralph Linhof
Productionmanager	Pierre Bazin

The acting collective Lubricat has, since being founded in 1989, continuously worked with a changing company drawn from a pool of theatre artists. Moving beyond the fashions, theories and conventions of traditional language-based theatre, Lubricat has persevered in devising and developing its own version of contemporary theatre practice. Lubricat has gained a strong reputation with critics and audiences alike for the projects it creates. Ever since the sophiensæle were founded in 1996, they have been a base for the work of Lubricat.

The sophiensæle established itself not only as the most widely known independent theatre in Berlin, but also as an important co-producer of cross-regional and international dance and theatre productions. The house presents the work of young artists who want to develop an individual language of theatre beyond that of the large theatre institutions. Its programme consists largely in premieres of dance, music and theatre, at the cutting edge of theatre tradition.

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