



# Newsletter No. 2

September 2007

[www.atworknetwork.org](http://www.atworknetwork.org)

## Dear friends,

here is the second edition of the @work newsletter. Its good to hear from everyone again, and to see that everyone is still working hard for the money, as Donna Summer used to say. But summer is over now, night is falling quickly, especially out here in the Swedish boondogs, where fate has dropped me like a hot potato.

The main focus of this edition is on the upcoming platform in Athens, organised by Marilli and Theatre Entropia, when we return to the root of European theatre. I have extracted your suggestions and comments for the meeting from your mails and pasted them in right after the program dates for a comprehensive overview.

What else is happening? Read for yourselves!

## **1-20/10: Platform @work Network @ 5<sup>th</sup> Alternative Stage Festival, 1-25/10/2007**

International Meeting (1.-4.10) of various Performing Arts Groups, Artists, Social Bodies and Institutions in an attempt to discuss possible interactions and form collaborative projects on a European scale. Lectures, round tables, debates and workshops plus performances, happenings, concerts & the exhibition Artists@Work. Main representatives of this initiative: TeaterKUNST - Denmark, Teatermaskinen - Sweden, Reality Research Centre - Finland, Berlin n@work - Germany, The Red Room - U. K., Entropia - Greece. AGGELON VIMA: 36 Satovriandou st., Omonia, KOSMO-POLITISMOS: 20 A. Metaxa st., Exarchia

At AGGELON VIMA:

Monday, 1/10: 18.00 - 20.30 Welcome Reception/Accreditation.

21.00 "Songs of Small Exiles", a performance with Christina Kyriazidi. A trilingual (English, Spanish, Greek) solo performance based on the poetry of J.P.Sartre. V. Perez-Sauquillo. K. Kavafis and C. Kyriazidi, dealing with immigration, travelling and our personal, inner exile. Dramaturgy, direction: Christina Kyriazidi, Original music: Giorgos Koumaradios and Shaghoon Kim

**Tuesday, 2/10: 10.00-14.00 & 17.00-21.00 Platform Meetings**

**Wednesday, 3/10: 10.00-14.00 & 17.00-21.00 Platform Meetings**

**Thursday, 4/10: 10.00-15.00 Platform Meetings**

Thursday, 4/10: 21.00 "Arab", a performance with Nora Amin & Adel Abdelwahab (in English, with an aroma of Arabic). A multi-media performance based on four poems from the collection "Muslim" written by Nora Amin in the USA in 2003-2004, dealing with the labels of identity imposed on ourselves by others, in an attempt to question definitions, break the rules and taboos, shift the borders amongst cultures. Written & Directed by Nora Amin, Music: Nader Sami, Photography: Meg Kowalski, Video: Amr Mounib, Produced by LAMUSICA theatre group, Egypt



For the rest of the program and news on Entropia's new production, see the end of the newsletter.

## Subjects for Athens: Suggestions from the network

### General Introduction

Janne: The past; what was the Story of Work – the project and how did it work and what have we learned.

### Subjects after work

Anders: Future subjects for the network. Are there common issues? Is it an idea to continue with an overall agenda?

Janne: The future; we think the network should have a new subject to work on. What could it be? We will bring some suggestions.

Jörn: „The language of the old paradigm is dead. The language of the new paradigm has not been born yet“ one audience member put it in Copenhagen. During discussions in and post platform it seemed that some of us, despite different their artistic approaches, were struggling with a similar feeling of failing to grasp and express the core of what makes work such a strain. It seems insufficient to blame the system, while at the same time we know it is by all means necessary to do so. Work continues to be a social subject, but it is also invading deep layers of everyone's identity, beyond those readily accessible by rational discourse and our art forms. A desire surfaced to learn more about these deeper reaches of humanity in discussions, when we put labels like unknown knowledge, heritage, spirituality etc. on it, none of which really stuck. It might be necessary to invent new or reinvent old languages to access these realms, not only in arts, but also in society, which makes this an utterly political subject. I understand Teatermaskinen's upcoming project, *Skogsfolkens Språk*, as an attempt in this direction. The knowledge of others in the network might be useful in a search that could, alas become the next common subject.

### Production/Funding

RRC: How could the network be financed/produced?

Jörn: Organisation outside official funding structures (grass roots networking), what are the interests, what is possible?

Anders: Nordic network application: Is this an idea to facilitate future meetings and network development? Should we look on other joint applications for the future?

Is the producers workshop still happening?

### The network

RRC: How does the network work? There is already a suggestion from the May meeting. Go through the suggestion.

RRC: How wide should the network be? Start as a European network and consider extensions to the rest of the world later? Continue networking with trade unions? How?

Jörn: Co-operation with unions, activists, other non-artists: How to include them in new research and support the creation of own transnational network structures.

### Other subjects

Emanuel: The resistance festival: The Swedish House invites the network to take part in the making of the festival. Presentation 20-30 minutes

Anders: The webpage and the newsletter. How to continue communication internally and externally?

Jörn: The @work-archive will be hosted by the Marx Memorial Library. But what goes in there, how will it be structured, how can it be accessed to make it a useable and useful tool for political and artistic research?



## News from the Danish house

### News from the House of TeaterKUNST

**September:** We have now produced and are in the midst of performing *Untitled* this week, as a part of the diversity week: "Hallo Denmark '07". The experience has been very challenging and the discussions after each performance very different. We performed in the union FOA, the city hall, the school for social workers, the carers at Kirsebærhaven elderly home and were finally we were evicted from the Royal Theatre, due to our boxes - our immigrants - being a fire hazard! Instead we kidnapped the audience from the Royal foyer and took them by bus to MS Halfmachine and performed for them in the belly of a ship. It has been an incredible experience - and many organisations have shown interest in our work. Check our website : [www.teaterkunst.dk](http://www.teaterkunst.dk)



**August:** TeaterKUNST partook in the Metropolis Biennale LAB with the initial research into WALLS – an examination of walls of mind and matter – to take place in Copenhagen and Berlin. On this we collaborated online with Joy and Janine from the Berlin N@work and with CITA (Centre for Information Technology and Architecture) and structure choreographer Diana Wesser from Leipzig. [www.metropolis-cph.dk/workshop/teaterkunst](http://www.metropolis-cph.dk/workshop/teaterkunst)

**July:** Nina was in London and, amongst others, talked to LIFT (London International Festival of Theatre), who is interested in building bridges with us and the @ Work network. LIFT will possibly send a representative to the Athens meeting.

**Now:** Nina will attend "The Language of the Forest People" workshop in Riddarhyttan and we all look forward to ATHENS! Nina, Dorte, Sheila will be there for sure – Layla and Fadime will do all they can to come too.

### News from Goossun Art-illery, June - September 2007 – Copenhagen/London

As the artistic director of Goossun Art-illery, Vahid has been expanding his base from Copenhagen to London and is now working from both "camps." He has stopped working on the performance *No Title* but is still associated to the Copenhagen House, TeaterKunst.

Vahid will join the @WORK meeting in Athens during the 5th Alternative Stage Festival representing Goossun Art-illery.

One of the plans of Goossun Art-illery is to develop the project "*Officium*": a series of photographs studying the anatomy of office workers in corporation environments.

Goossun Art-illery is also at the early stage of forming an ensemble of performers. Luckily two actors – Mohammad Reza Jozi (Iran) and Sam Ghaibeh (Syria/DK) – who have previously acted in Vahid's film and performance happen to be residing in London at the moment. They are both interested in @WORK too.

In Denmark Bronwen Loshak and Vahid had few sessions of training together on principal acting techniques. The collaboration will continue in the future with the aim of facilitating workshops for actors.

Further more, Attila Pesyani, the artistic director of Bazi Theatre (Tehran) is still interested in collaborating with @WORK network. Attila had primarily been invited to the Copenhagen Platform, but due to our limited budget, the visit did not succeed.

On the administrative side Lene Bang Henningsen has begun to work with Goossun Art-illery, as fundraiser for the various projects.

## News from the Swedish house

### Worker's theatre symposium 10-12th of August

For three days the possibilities of building a new worker's theatre in Sweden kept on at work space in Riddarhyttan. The symposium consisted of a set of performances, lectures and open discussions. About a hundred persons participated from theatres, unions, worker's theatres, popular education institutions. The debate came out strong and complex and there were several calls for further meetings in the next year.

### @work – a staged essay on work 2007-2008

The Swedish performance continues touring. The essay was performed at the worker's symposium in Riddarhyttan. Right now, there is a strong interest in Eskilstuna, Borlänge and Göteborg, though dates are still to be confirmed.



### The resistance festival Fall of 2008

Plans are made for late august 2008 when the next resistance festival takes place in Riddarhyttan. The @work network are welcome to take part in the programming and discussions on the festival will be held during the Athens meeting.

### A play on Riddarhyttan 2007-2009

A new performance is in the preface in Riddarhyttan. The theme is life and work in the village in postindustrial times. The project invites people in the village, unions, companies to participate in the creative process. Apart from the performance exhibitions and local documentation is called for. The show will open at the resistance festival next year.

### The story of work report

A full documentation is now completed and the final report is handed in to the executive agency.

### The language of the forest people 24-30<sup>th</sup> of September

The Swedish House is happy to welcome network participants Jörn Burmester, Nina Larissa Bassett, Niina Hosiasluoma and Kollina van den Berg into our new process. Jörn and Nina will take part in our first workshop 24-30<sup>th</sup> of September.

### @work project report in Umeå 17<sup>th</sup> of October

The @work project will be presented on a national seminar in Umeå the 17<sup>th</sup> of October. The seminar is organised by the council of cultural affairs in Sweden. Hannes Olsson, Anders Olsson and Tapani Björkbacka will present the project.

### The @work project presented in Cordoba 17-18<sup>th</sup> of October

Ingemar E L Göransson of Swedish LO, member of Swedish reference group, will present the @work project at the European union meeting organised by CTG in Cordoba 17-18<sup>th</sup> of October. Ingemar is also invited to Belfast along with Anders Olsson, Teatermaskinen, to meet the Transport union of Northern Ireland this fall. Discussions on further collaboration are on the agenda.

Web: [www.teatermaskinen.com](http://www.teatermaskinen.com) to be updated soon.

## News from the Finnish house

The first edition of RRC Magazine Esityt will be out in the end of September including two articles about The Story of Work Festival in Copenhagen and an interview of Jörn J. Burmester. Unfortunately the magazine is published only in Finnish so far. Later, when we get rich, we'll get it translated. Word "esityt" has several meanings in Finnish: performance, proposal, representation, statement...

RRC @work group have just started rehearsing the Finnish version of Lure with a good drive. It will be called Lumo ("enchantment"). There will two versions of enchantments; first one is the version seen in Copenhagen in April and the second one a portrait of new worker presented by Panda.

The autumn will be busy and political. With a series of performances and discussions we are asking: CAN THERE BE POLITICS WITHOUT A SPECTACLE?

\* 10. – 13.10. "Politics of Silence"

<http://www.todellisuus.fi/projektiit/hiljaisuuden2.htm>

\* 12. – 27.10. "Lure I – exhibition of infinite possibilities"

<http://www.todellisuus.fi/projektiit/lure2.htm>

Both "Politics of Silence" & "Lure I" are part of /theatre.now –festival program of Kiasma Theatre:

<http://www.kiasma.fi/index.php?id=1261&FL=1&L=1>

\* 15.10. "Time as a political tool" – panel discussion about how to distribute time in a new way and how could time act as a political concept. Speakers: Camilla Kring (Denmark), Kalle Haatanen (Finland) and maybe more...

\* 17.11. – 2.12. "Lure II – portrait of new worker"

<http://www.todellisuus.fi/projektiit/lure2.htm>

\* Street performances in central Helsinki in October and November.

\* 30.11. – 2.12. "Political Festival" (working title)

Bringing all the performances of the year together; Niina@work, videos from workshops, speeches and guest appearances and an answer to THE question: Can there be political performances without using the language of a spectacle.

Please, send all inquiries about the autumn program to Panda. He does the PR and works as our Press Manager. [dothepanda@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dothepanda@yahoo.co.uk)

Athens meeting:

The participants from RRC to Athens meeting are Essi Aittamaa, Titta Halinen and Janne Saarakkala. We sent Marilli a list of issues we would like to discuss during the meeting:



## News from the Berlin house

With four performances of *Arbeit (Definition 2.1)* at Sophiensæle, Berlin, we have concluded our work on the subject of work for the time being. Now we are preparing a comprehensive documentation of our two years in @work. One part is a DVD with a documentary of our last performances of *Arbeit (Definition 2.1)* in Berlin and some short videos that we produced in the process. The documentary is already available. It was shot and edited by Christopher Hewitt, editor of Liveartwork magazine, a periodical DVD of new and interesting live art ([www.liveartwork.com](http://www.liveartwork.com)). The other part will be a cardboard box filled with the DVD and a collection of postcards and leaflets with pictures and texts from our @work-process. There will be a limited artist's edition of 50 with the lid stuffed like a pillow, embroidered with the slogan „Alles ist Arbeit“, and another edition of 100 in a plain cardboard box. Both versions should be available later in October.



We have made progress in reviving Performer Stammtisch, the network that our company, the *Berlin n@work*, originated from. We will start having regular meetings again this fall, depending on when the renovation of the new facilities we have been offered to use courtesy of the *Berlin laptop orchestra* will be finished. We would be happy to welcome any of you who might be visiting Berlin as guests, with a subject for discussion, or with a presentation of your performance work.

We will most likely not produce new performances in the company structure anytime soon, as all of us are busy with other projects. We also have some serious and general criticism of work in the company structure, as it tends to force the structure of capitalist surplus production onto the artwork. We are debating on how to return to a more open, true network form by fusing the n@work and Stammtisch in some way. Future artistic activities might take more unconventional shapes than the more theatrical events produced within the framework of @work.

## **News from the English house**

### **News from The Red Room**

The main news is the change of Staff. A part-time producer, Bryan Savery has been appointed. Also a part-time artistic associate Shabnam Shabazi has been appointed. The Producer's primary role is to deliver Stage two of Journeys to Work. The Associate's main role is to deliver the RRPlatform and the International Workshop Festival next year. Both are working closely with Topher.

Topher plans to be in Athens and will be able to confirm by the end of the week.

### **News from Marx Memorial Library**

John Callow has enthusiastically agreed to host the future @work-archive in the Marx memorial library in London. So this will be the place where all our manuscripts, conceptions, videos and photos will go. How this will be organised and structured remains to be discussed. John will unfortunately not be able to make it to Athens, but we could start gathering ideas there.

## **5<sup>th</sup> Alternative Stage Festival, 1-25/10/2007, PROGRAM continued:**

10-15/9: Greek and Foreign groups & artists from theatre, dance-theatre, performance art, video art, multimedia, short films, ENTROPIA: 114 M. Alexandrou st., Keramikos

20 – 25/10: Workshop & Work Demonstration - Performance (Thursday 25/10) on the masks of the classic Balinese dance-drama Topeng by the performer & artistic director of the Indonesian GAMBUH PURA DESA ENSEMBLE, Cristina Wistari Formaggia. Drama School of CONSERVATORY OF ATHENS: Rigillis & Vas. Sophias st., Kolonaki

At KOSMO-POLITISMOS:

Art Exhibition entitled «Documentary Artwork / Ground Flight»

Opening: Friday, 5 October at 8.00 p.m., Dance Performance: at 8.30 p.m., Duration: 5-20 October 2007, open from Tuesday to Friday, 3 -9 p.m. and on Saturdays, 1-8 p.m., Closed on Sundays and Mondays.

Ground Flight – Dance Performance

Anasa dance group will present traditional African dances, accompanied by percussion instruments played live. An emphasis is given to choreographies including motifs inspired by the basic cycle of agricultural work (sowing – harvesting), as they are met in West African societies. The performance will be presented during the opening of the exhibition, along with a video projection and information material.

Documentary Artwork

Tricksters group (Performance Art), using diverse materials as tools, will comment on the history of work. By means of a theatre costume and a video performance, they will narrate passages from the space-time of the history of work and will confront ignorance. Space: Fabrics become the medium (place) expressing an era, in which the aristocracy was overthrown, and the middle and working classes were risen for the first time.

Time: Landmark dates in the history of work, up to its current form. Costume design & performance: Michalis Afolania, Video Art & Editing: Penelope Skourla, Konstantina Visviropoulou

Theatre ENTROPIA's next Production: Performance «Genocide»

A dramatized composition of various texts dealing with the dark subject of Genocide, based on the two books by the journalist Jean Hatzfeld on the Rwanda massacres, from the point of view of the survivors, as well as the killers. Presented by a group of five actors, with live music. Dramaturgy – Direction: Marilli Mastrantoni  
First Presentation: 15 February 2008.