



## Newsletter No. 3

December 2007

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

**Dear friends,**

so this was it. Another year is almost over, After consuming our respective turkeys, pepparkokar and presents there is nothing left but to get drunk one more time. What a year it was! It saw the completion of „The Story of Work“, our first major project together, lots of exciting performances, inspiring workshops and personal encounters. We have laid a solid base for continuing our partnership across borders of countries, groups and genres, lets continue to build on it. We are happy to welcome the new Greek house to the network, who hosted the October meeting were we decided on our new subjects, CIVILISATION and reduction.

It is good to see that many events are in the making to provide opportunity to meet during 2008 and beyond, most notably the Copenhagen Workspace #1 in February, the Resistance Festival in August, and the Radical Theatre Workshop Festival in September. Numerous individual cooperations are ample proof of the fact that the network is functioning, providing working opportunities and chances for extension of our artistic and social horizons.

I wish all of you a relaxing time during the remaining part of the holidays. May you find time to gather strength and energy for the challenges to come in 2008. And I look forward to meeting all of you again.

Yours  
Jörn

PS. The next Newsletter will come out in the end of March 2008. Let's say the deadline is the 15th. Contributions from everyone within the network are very welcome. We are interested in anything you do, even if it is not directly connecting to our present activities. And PLEASE, include pictures.

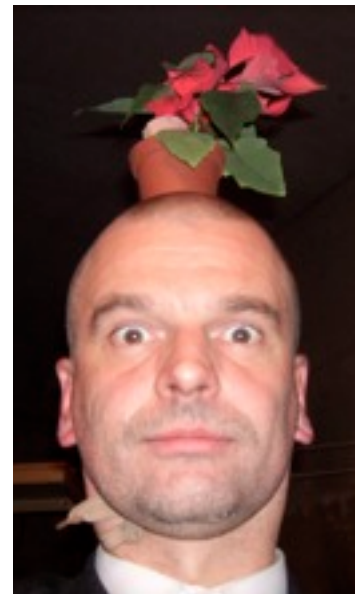
### **@work Platform in Athens, Greece, October 2007**

On the first weekend of October, Marilli Mastrantoni/Thatre Entropia invited all members of the @work network to gather in Athens to discuss the further development of our work. Quite a large group came together, including representatives from all existing houses as well as artists and activists from Greece, members of the crew of Anart, the ship of fools, that was mooring close to Athens at the time, and Ingemar Göransson, our man in the Swedish LO, as part of the Swedish delegation.

The meeting began with a long round of introductions of members and guests. This is not necessary to report on, as we more or less know each other. If you would like to study the complete notes from the meeting, please let me know.

#### **Houses and Satellites**

Next was a discussion of the present and future structure of the network. The main challenge we are facing is to maintain a productive and creative working situation beyond the theme of work, including, on the practical side, to do so without funding and an executive producer keeping things together (for the time being, at least). Though the discussion went along lines that had been decided during the evaluation meeting





The resistance festival that has been described above, is another meeting point.

A vague, but interesting idea, is to aim for a large platform meeting in 2010 in Istanbul, which will be cultural capital of Europe that year. The Ship of Fools is planning to go there, and it could be a good working image to see the network as pirates, raiding the official European culture that will be anchored on one of the fringes of Europe and claiming participation. If this should happen it would be necessary to form a conceptual and production working group quite soon.

### **The house of OD**

Florian, Essi and Dorte founded a house for producers: The house of organisational development, short OD,. It will deal with structures and develop new methods of organising rather than day by day financing.

### **The new Greek house!**

In a small but heart-wrenching ceremony Theatre Entropia was accepted by all representatives of the network as the new Greek house. We look forward to exciting new contributions from the south-eastern part of Europe to our future activities.

This report was compiled by Jörn based on the excellent and comprehensive notes taken by Maria and Janine.

### **News from the Danish house**

#### **TeaterKUNST: Lab-Civilisation-WALLS**

This autumn has been busy – restructuring, workshopping and festivals have been on the agenda providing many inspiring and moving experiences in Athens, Helsinki, Riddarhyttan and DK.

TeaterKUNST has currently restructured. Our creative direction is now formed by Dorte Wium, Layla Mollerup, Sheila Trillingsgaard and Nina Larissa Bassett.

Following the Untitled project we were invited back to the CBSI to create a LAB challenging diversity issues for the teachers' training program. The M-LAB is based on the up-side-down world of Alice in Wonderland and blatantly discriminates the participants. This took place on the 14th of December and went very well.



Nina was invited to join the Skogfolkens Språk project with Teatermaskinen and found the workshop very inspiring. Due to funding and time she has not participated for the full duration but is talking with Jörn Burmester about the possibility of making a separate contribution.

TK will host the first network experiment: Civilisation @work - 21st – 24th February 2008 – currently we are negotiating with Camp X, the new contemporary theatre of Copenhagen, about collaborations with their Xplore research project into performing arts.

TK has received a residency at Sophiensæle in Berlin with the WALLS project. Layla and Nina will be there from Jan. 1st – March 23rd (with small breaks) working on methods to find material about walls - looking at the temptation of “the other side”. We will be working with Joy Harder and Janine Eisenächer from Emanuelle and choreographer Diana Wesser from Leipzig. Danish dramaturge Nanna Rohweder has joined the process. If any of you are in Berlin, let us know!

Next year will also include exciting projects such as In the Nude with Janne Saarakkala and Ivo Briedis – this will workshop in Stockholm at Intercult in January.

Finally and most important: Dorte just gave birth to a baby girl, who is probably going to be called Ronja!

### Satellites

TeaterKUNST and Goossun Art-illery have decided not to continue the satellite relationship due to communication issues.

Fiona Hirzel: Gave birth to her baby on the November 23rd – so she is working hard. Fiona has received some funding for “Les 10minutes de Fiona” and is invited to the Chiasso Dance Festival in April.

Ivo Briedis: Is participating in Workspace #1 in February. Ivo says that Karosta (K@2) in Leipaja is still open to network activities and we should discuss this option. <http://www.karosta.lv/k2/>

Enjoy the consumer season and may your next year be as minimal as possible!

Nina

### News from the Swedish house

Teatermaskinen have made two more performances on “An essay on work” in Eskilstuna 29th of November and 5th of December at a Metall worker’s union jubilee. To the first performance, we were visited by journalist Petra Welzel and photographer Kiki from the German Ver.di union. Their specific interest was of course the work of Jörn Burmester and the big union collaboration process in Sweden over the last few years. The essay on work will also be performed in Gothenburg 24-26th of March next year.

### Resistance Festival

The Resistance Festival is slowly starting to move. It will be situated in the forest area outside of Riddarhyttan, using the skilope, circus tents and hopefully the outdoor scene and the shelter of Work Space Teatermaskinen. We welcome warmly all initiatives from the @work network that go along the theme of Civilisation. Main festival dates are the 27th-30th of August, but the festival will kick off on the 25th with workshops and a major seminar on cultural policies and strategies of survival for independent art.

### Skogsfolkens språk

The process continues. We had our fourth workshop 10-16th of December continuing the research on the relationship between man and nature. In January we will continue with a nine day long work shop 11th – 19th of January. We are continuously searching and keeping an open process going. If you have a specific interest you are most welcome to contact us.

### News from the Finnish house

#### The Great Orkkufestival

We were happy to have Joy, Janine, Jörn, Åsa and Nina with her son Sofus and a Danish dramaturge Nanna in Helsinki in the beginning of December to participate The Great Orkkufestival. It was the climax of RRC Research Year of political performance. It worked also as an unofficial @work Network platform including the first three activities by the Reduction Group (Joy, Jörn & Janne). We want to continue reducing! @work Network was also active in crawling the streets of Helsinki on their hands and knees. It was a political street performance for asylum seekers and the victims of climate change. This resulted an interesting discussion with some activists about politics and performance...

#### Evaluation

Right after New Year Janne and Pilvi will work on the evaluation on the research year 2007. A version of it will be published in the Finnish Theatre-magazine, on the Internet and it will be presented to the members of RRC. Probably a short version of it will be also in English.



#### Magazine

Besides evaluation we are writing material for the second issue of Esitys-magazine which will concentrate on a question: "Why create performances?" It should be out in March.

### Research Year 2008

RRC members Julius Elo and Tuomas Laitinen will be the Research Leaders of 2008. The topic of the year is "Spectator's body in a performance". The guys started working on it already in 2007 from a political point of view by creating a series of performances called „Politics of Silence“. The final one was in The Great Orkkufestival with the title Silent Orgasm. The Research Year will start with a series of workshops run by Julius & Tuomas, Eero-Tapio Vuori and Felix Ruckertt.

### New House Member!

We have invited a performance company Oblivia from Helsinki to be a satellite of Finnish House. "The List Performance" (all Beatles song titles listed in alphabetical order) by Oblivia-member Magnus Logi Kristinsson was performed in The Great Orkkufestival while the rest of the group was workshopping in Berlin and living in Nicolas's flat. Take a look of a new friend: [www.oblivia.fi](http://www.oblivia.fi)

### Workspace

Essi, Jussi and Janne are participating the WorkSpace workshop in Copenhagen in February.

### News from the Berlin house Meet Emanuelle!

After a nine month intermission we have revived Performer Stammtisch ([www.liveartwork.com/stammtisch](http://www.liveartwork.com/stammtisch)) as a regular meeting place and showcase for performance artists living in or visiting Berlin. It is now hosted by Electronic Church, courtesy of Berliner Laptop Orchester ([www.laptoporchester.de](http://www.laptoporchester.de)). The first meeting featured two performances by British performance artist Sian Robinson Davies ([www.sianrobinsondavies.com](http://www.sianrobinsondavies.com)), who helped to organise the meeting and can be considered a satellite, and the presentation of a new number of the liveartwork magazine DVD by our friend Christopher Hewitt ([www.liveartwork.com](http://www.liveartwork.com)). Florian, Janine and Jörn reported on two years of @work-activities with the Berlin n@work, presented the beautiful catalogue that is now available in two exciting limited versions. Each house should have received a copy by now. If not, holler. Additional copies can be ordered for EUR 40 for the limited artist's edition with pillow top, and EUR 20 for the regular version. Contents are the same in both versions: Each box contains 28 different postcards documenting highlights from our work about work, some notes, a DVD of our last performances in Berlin, some fun stickers and a surprise. The catalogue-box is the last product of the Berlin n@work. After its presentation the company was officially dissolved. Florian, Joy, Jörn, Janine and Nicolas will continue to work together under the new name Emanuelle. Emanuelle stands for the scope of research ranging from hard theory (Immanuel Kant) to pop culture (80s soft porn) and for the passage from capitalist self-exploiting production-based company structure to organic, meandering, author-less, process-initialising rhizome.



All members of the @work-network and their friends are encouraged to present their live work, documentation or topics of discussion at Stammtisch meetings. Meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month until further notice. Anyone interested in participating should contact Florian ([florianfeigl@alice-dsl.de](mailto:florianfeigl@alice-dsl.de)).



Emanuelle is hoping to contribute a working process presently working-titled *Synthesis* to the Resistance festival and possibly other events. *Synthesis* will combine performance, research, work with objects and media as well as communication between artists and guests of the festival to create an installation that reflects the field between resistance and civilisation and might also be considered a first step in our collaborative research on the new subject.

We plan to participate in the Copenhagen workspace with as many of our members as possible and payable. Jörn is planning to hold a workshop on reduction, following up on the fun and successful performances during the Great Orkku Festival (see: News from the Finnish House) with Joy and Janne. We would be happy to welcome additional researchers on the subject. For more info write to [jburmester@tiscali.de](mailto:jburmester@tiscali.de).

## News from the English house Red Room Newsletter December 2008

### Dear Houses,

The Red Room continues to develop its programme of radical work and to strengthen its connection with audiences and agencies within civil society.

On February 4th 2008 we launch our next Platform entitled: *Why Are We Afraid of our Young?* This is an Interactive Evening of Film, Performance and Debate. Up to 60,000 young people, mostly male, may be stabbed and injured each year, the equivalent of more than 160 victims a day....(The Voice Newspaper, October 2007). What can we do to make a difference? This is a free event come along but book as places are limited. [www.ovalhouse.com](http://www.ovalhouse.com); info: [www.theredroom.org.uk](http://www.theredroom.org.uk)

We are planning our production of *Journeys To Work 2*. It will take place in between May-July 2008 in London and hopefully Liverpool and Manchester. Funding is being sought for this production. This will be a truly interactive, multi-platform experience. We have a very exciting London venue lined up and it would be great to see you there when it happens.

Plans for the *International Radical Workshop Festival* are slowly coming into shape. Shabnam has been inviting individuals and organisations. We hope to stage the Festival in early September. If you have not received an invitation please bear with us.

Contact Shabz direct on [shabz@theredroom.org.uk](mailto:shabz@theredroom.org.uk). Also note that the invitations are a tender to take part not a confirmation of programming. We will have more news and details about the Fest in the new Year.

That's it from the British House.  
Happy New Queer  
Love and Lubrication

Topher  
Artistic Director  
The Red Room

### Economy The OD-Questionnaire

Florian has contributed an extended version of the questionnaire that was already floating around during the Athens meeting. It will be attached in .doc format to the mail you receive this newsletter with. Please fill it in and return it to [florianfeigl@alice-dsl.de](mailto:florianfeigl@alice-dsl.de). Here are Florian's explanatory notes:

#### Idea of the questionnaire

- 1 - find a way to document & describe what we already have done, who we are, how our way of collaboration works
- 2 - define common goals (and define points where we differ!) and use the results to develop better strategies to achieve them and strengthen each other
- 3 - find through a dynamic description of the @twork network (maybe unexpected) directions and perspective for future development

What I am aiming at with the questionnaire is rather categories of quality than sheer information as already collected in various excel sheets. The questions so far are a beginning and I can imagine far better approaches. Anyways: What I hope to get together is sort of the material to work with in the Copenhagen workshop. It would be great to get at least one completed sheet back from each house. Feel free though to send me "personal versions". After some of the questions I put examples of possible answers. These are meant to point out a certain direction. If you have something completely different in mind I am more than happy to learn about individual points of view!

Ways to work with it in Copenhagen: At the moment I am thinking about some sort of three dimensional installation with an old sports sock in the centre. Though this might be transformed into a video game or a rhythmic pic-nic. for sure it will deal with different concepts of presentation.

Very much looking forward to your answers!  
Yours,  
Florian