



## Newsletter No. 4

March 2008

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

**Dear friends,**

2008 is in full swing, and we are still waiting for spring. Enough poetry. Snow might fall on the city, but hot activities go on throughout the network. Read for yourself. Thanks to all contributors.

Many inspiring events are coming up in 2008. The Copenhagen workspace #1 was a great start, thanks to the excellent preparation and organisation by Teaterkunst. Some upcoming opportunities are listed in the articles below. Please note the deadline for both Institutet's workspace offer and participation in the Alternative stage festival in Athens is April 10th.

A personal note: As many of you have heard, I terminated my collaboration with Teatermaskinen, and have moved back to Berlin. I will concentrate on my solo work, collaboration with Emanuelle and Performer Stammtisch, and will also continue my @work activities.

Hope all is fine wherever you are.

Yours  
Jörn

PS. The next Newsletter is due in the middle of this year. Deadline is the 15th of June. Please inform your satellites, remember to send your contributions on time, and to include pictures.



*Joy Harder, Janne Saarakkala, Jörn J. Burmester just found out that there is no way to sugarcoat this bitter pill during Workspace #1*

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

#### **In the Nude**

TK has had a busy spring. Kicking off with a workshop in Stockholm on the "In the Nude" project at Intercult. Ivo, Janne and Nina presented their hotel piece to an invited audience on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January and plan to do a tour of hotels in Helsinki, Stockholm, Riga and Copenhagen in November and December of 2008.

#### **Workspace #1**

In February TK hosted the first civilisation Workspace in Copenhagen. 15 artists worked for 48 hours in the same room on this subject. Each brought an object or idea as a starting point. The result was a 2 hour presentation to 30 people from the Copenhagen art and theatre world, showing a wide variety of issues - from Mr Democracy to crop circles, to reduction, anarchy, homes, alienation and surveillance. The plan is to continue the Workspaces in 08/ 09 in Riddarhyttan, Malmö, Athens, Helsinki, Karosta and Berlin - aiming to present a final project in City of Culture Istanbul 2010.

## Wall 2 Wall

From January 1<sup>st</sup> to March 23<sup>rd</sup> Layla and Nina have been artists in residence in Sophiensaele, Berlin, to research the subject walls. This has been an immense journey that ended in a presentation on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March of "Wall 2 Wall", an auction of the theatre walls by using a number of artistic comments, made in collaboration with Joy and Janine of Emanuelle and Camilla Graff Junior, Philippe Christiansen and Nanna Rohweder. Wall 2 Wall aims to continue selling off walls in Copenhagen under the Metropolis LAB in 2008.

## Next

May: Nina will be going to Riddarhyttan to assist in the Resistance Festival planning.

June: In the Nude has a second workshop in Copenhagen.

August: Wall 2 Wall is optioning to participate in the Metropolis LAB.

Nanna Rohweder joined the HOUSE of OD in February.

## Satellite of the Danish house Ivo Briedis Bringing @work to Karosta

Karosta is a very special place. Established in 1890 as a military base it was closed to the public and an autonomous settlement with its own infrastructure. Karosta's military character stayed important through all political regimes that ruled the territory of Latvia, but especially in Soviet era when many Russian people came to work and live there. After Latvia regained its independence following the collapse of the Soviet Union, most military personnel moved back to Russia. The Soviet Army left destroyed infrastructure, drowned submarines and many families who did not want to leave their homes.

Today Karosta is an area of abandoned Soviet style block houses, high rate of unemployment, beautiful beaches and the booming city of Liepaja only 5 km away. This situation attracted artists to set up the movement of cultural and social development. The culture and information center called K@2 is the core of this. Their aims are to develop culture, education, information and interconnection centre in Karosta to achieve social changes in the local neighborhood and beyond; to offer open spaces for creative activities.



Karosta. The Saterllite station. © 2005 k@2.



Nanna Rohweder and Layla Mollerup performing „Wall 2 Wall“ at Sophiensaele, Berlin.

The idea is to bring @work Network to Karosta to show what we've done and what Karosta can give us. This is perfect place to make deeper research into CIVILISATION. The plan is to make it happen in summer of 2009.

More iinfo on Karosta on the Internet: [www.karosta.lv](http://www.karosta.lv)

## News from the Berlin house

### Emanuelle to take her performance *Synthesis* on the road

Emanuelle is developing her new durational dialectical performance piece *Synthesis*. It has three parts that will be specifically fine-tuned for each event the group participates in.

#### 1. Thesis

A performance lecture on specific aspects of the subject of the festival or conference that invites Emanuelle.



Coming soon: Emanuelle rocking *Eurydice*.

#### 2. Anti-Thesis

The creation of a temporary archive of objections and protests against the thesis, collected from other artists and audiences at the festival. This can last several days.

#### 3. Synthesis

A group performance using the gathered materials and inviting guests to personally perform their objections.

We hope to be invited to a few places in Germany this summer, and to travel to Riddarhyttan in August and to Copenhagen next spring.

Just mailed the plan for a first specific edition for an event at Festspielhaus Hellerau in Dresden on values. The plan is inspired by a staging of Gluck's „*Orpheus and Eurydice*“ by Jaques-Dalcroze and Appia in 1913. We will dress up like nymphs and grieve a lot. Our first venture into dace theatre. Let's hope they buy it.

## Performer Stammtisch News

Otherwise we continue successfully with the meetings of the new Performer Stammtisch curated by Florian Feigl and Janine Elsenächer, Don't forget there is a standing invitation to everyone from the network to present whatever they do or find interesting at Stammtisch when you visit Berlin.

Soon the wonderful new Stammtisch-website will go online at [www.performerstammtisch.de](http://www.performerstammtisch.de). Feel free to take a previewing peek, even though it is not fully operational yet.

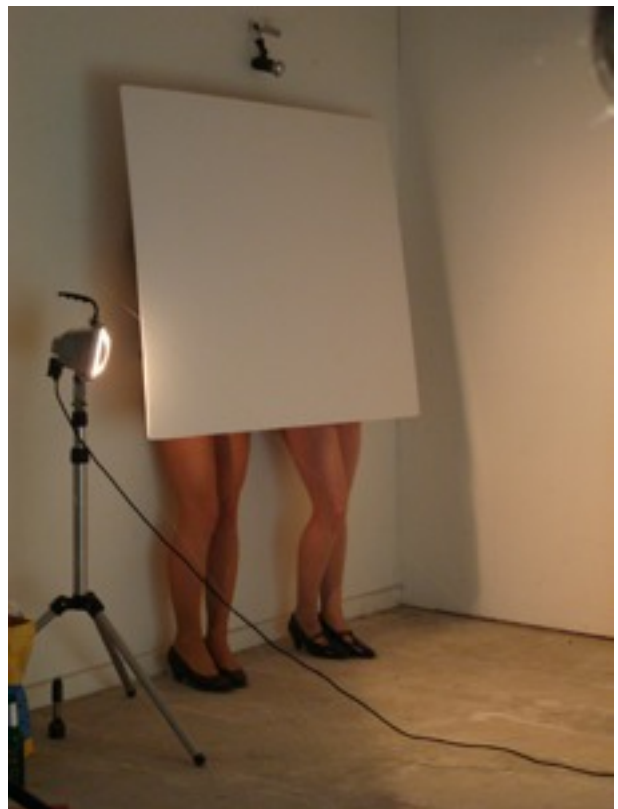
## Berlin satellite

### News from (e)at\_work

(e)at\_work is working on their project “Arbeit und Identität” (“work and identity”), analyzing and discussing relations of work and identity by developing ways to deal with interview and documentary material in performing arts. It is also a way to argue about means of representation. After intense research, and one upcoming workshop we'll present results in a demo as a performative installation at gallery “Kurt im Hirsch” in Berlin ([www.kurt-im-hirsch.de](http://www.kurt-im-hirsch.de)) probably 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> April. There will be demonstrations and working processes going on each day for a couple of hours. We would be glad to see some of you there, you're welcome!

More information will be available soon on [www.eatwork.de](http://www.eatwork.de). We will also send a newsletter.

Best wishes, the (e)at\_workers



Max Factory performing *Zukunftsklang (Future Sound)* at Performer Stammtisch.

## Janine Eisenächer Workspace at Institutet's MIT Demo Festival?

As we have discussed ideas and plans for future meetings and workspaces of the @work network in the end of workspace #1 in Copenhagen I have met Anders Carlsson and Ludvig Uhlbors from Institutet in Malmö(former Teater Terrier) to talk about the possibility of having a workspace there this year.

They are interested in having @work network at Institutet. A workspace won't fit in with the Rome project (last part "Death of Civilization", 17<sup>th</sup> May: would be great if some of us would see the show). They would like to have the @work network at their 1<sup>st</sup> MIT DEMO Festival 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2008. There will be a 3 or 4 day working period before for those who need/want it. MIT-DEMO invites about 4 artists/groups to present un-finished works, and several scholars for lectures. They plan to invite (e)at\_work from Berlin (Janine's and Joy's group). It will have the theme: "REAL ACTION".

It sounds like a great opportunity to have workspace #3, continue working on civilization, discuss and demonstrate methods and process to each other and audiences, connect with artists, scholars and audiences interested in the network, make the network known to the public.

I suggest the issue "IMAGE(S)" for the workspace at Institutet. It's big enough and can be combined with "STORIES/NARRATION". What do you think?

Institutet and its partners will provide four working spaces. I know the two major spaces at Institutet: there's a big black box, and a white cube, similar to the one in Copenhagen but a bit bigger.

Deadline for ideas, questions, confirmations or refusals to do something at MIT-DEMO is 10<sup>th</sup> April. We could discuss via email. If you have questions or ideas, write to: anderscarlsson@institutet.eu.

Hugs from Berlin,  
xxx Janine

Letter from Malmö:  
Hello dear @work networkers!

This is an initiative question to the @work network for participation in MALMÖ INTERNATIONAL THEATRE DEMO – a pilot for a future theatre festival in Malmö. Me and Janine met in Malmö on 25<sup>th</sup> February and talked about MIT-DEMO and alternatives for the practical part of the festival. I have followed the process of the @work network at distance, and I think it's a very interesting thing going on... and maybe the network's members could find it interesting and benefit from being part of our festival. This is just a first inquiry to find out if it is so.

Organizers: Institutet (former Teater Terrier), DRC (Dramatic Writing Research Centre), Teatr Weimar

Idea: To gather practical and theoretical experience on the theme of reality/fiction in contemporary scenic practice for exchange, workshops, lectures and demonstrations.

Time/place: The public part of the festival is between 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2008. The groups invited to work on demos may arrive on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> of November, work 3-5 days, and then make a public presentation. The groups will have their own workspace with a simple set of technical equipment. The demos will be presented in the same space (if the group doesn't wish otherwise).

The theme - REAL ACTION: I could write a long background to why this theme is relevant for the crisis of the representational drama, for dramatic illusionism, and the society and culture in general. But in this case I'll put it short: What is "reality" and "fiction" for/in contemporary scenic practice? In which forms can/should we deal with both? Why is that important? What are the consequences for artistic/scenic practice? How do we as artists problematize and tackle the question of what is real? What is "reality" in relation to "action"? My hope is that the invited groups react artistically to these questions.

DEMOS: There will be no full productions at MIT DEMO. Our idea is to highlighten the process as well as its questions and problems. A demo can be an open rehearsal, a performance, a lecture, an installation or whatever the artists find relevant. Certainly though, it will be understood as an artistic response to the theme REAL ACTION.

Finances: The fundraising for MIT DEMO has just started so its hard to predict what will be the result. But we hope to be able to cover travel costs, accomodation, one meal a day (in the festival bar) and an equipped workspace. Of course, also the participation in what the festival offers: seminars, hear-plays, films, bar nights, meetings etc. etc.

From our part, we can supply the participating groups with an official invitation that can be helpful in applications to other funds (to cover the cost of your time and work e.g).

Welcome with your questions and comments!

Anders Carlsson  
artistic director  
INSTITUTET

## News from the Swedish house Teatermaskinen

### Resistance Festival "The same wrapping – chunkier content!"

*Three days of carnival, of awareness-expansion and resistance: Now with the theme CIVILIZATION! Inside and outside in a world without borders: Existence or annihilation?*

The Swedish House is busy with The Resistance Festival in Riddarhyttan 27th-30th of August, to which we hope to welcome all the Houses in the @work network. From the 24th there is room for workshops leading up to the festival. In a few weeks a first preliminary programme is to be found at [www.teatermaskinen.com](http://www.teatermaskinen.com).

### Cultural Politics Symposium

We specifically invite to a limited (40 persons) symposium "Culture policies and survival strategies of independent art" the 26th and 27th of August: What are the main aims for the independent art scene? What are the future subjects? How can the independent art scene survive in a twenty year perspective? Artistically? Practically? Financially? How does the European cultural agenda and the national/regional policies effect this survival? Is there need for action? If so, how?

### Report on Culture 2000 projects

THE STORY OF WORK was chosen as one of the projects when the Council of Cultural affairs presented a publication on Culture 2000 projects in Sweden. To order the publication, please contact [monica.lindkvist@kulturradet.se](mailto:monica.lindkvist@kulturradet.se)

### WorkSpace Teatermaskinen

The process with the international workspace is continuing. After some delays with applications we now expect to get started in late summer of 2008.

We welcome persons and organisations from the @work network to come and visit us during spring and summer 2008 for the preparatory work of the resistance festival, own writing work and participation in Skogsfolkens språk process. Please contact Anders Olsson [anders@teatermaskinen.com](mailto:anders@teatermaskinen.com) to discuss dates and conditions.

### Visit to London

Teatermaskinen, Red Room, Marx Memorial Library, TUC met to discuss participation in the Resistance Festival and possibilities for performances and other collaborations in the UK.

### E-Mail from London

**Von:** "Topher Campbell" <topher@theredroom.org.uk>  
**Datum:** 27. März 2008 11:18:10 MEZ  
**An:** "Jörn J. Burmester" <jburmester@tiscali.de>  
**Betreff: RE: newsletter - last chance**

Hi Jorn,

I hope you are well. Nothing much to report I am afraid. I had a good meeting with Anders and we are discussing the possibility of TM staging something in the UK alongside The Red Room this year or 09. Nothing is definite.

Also as you are aware I intend to be at the resistance festival in August. Meanwhile we are gearing up for JTW 2.0

Best wishes  
Tx

„@work - An essay on work“ is preparing for final performances in Skinnskatteberg in May 2008.

## News from the Greek house

### Theatre Entropia: Preparing Genocide and Alternative Stage Festival

Theatre ENTROPIA is preparing its new production "Genocide", and the 6th Alternative Stage Festival (1-15 Dec. 2008). The festival is titled "Interactive Virtualities".

Theatre ENTROPIA's group is in the process of rehearsals on our new production "Genocide". We plan to have a first presentation in Athens for a limited number of performances around the middle of May 2008, performances in Festivals in Greece and abroad, and final presentations in Athens starting in October 2008.

It's about the Dramatization of various texts and non-theatrical material, concerning the theme of the dark and irrational phenomenon of genocide, inspired by two formidable books by Libération's French journalist, Jean Hatzfeld (who followed the war in ex-Yugoslavia and the Rwandan genocide), on the massacres in Rwanda, seen and described by the survivors, as well as the killers. The books are at the same time a study and a rare documentation, with original first person narratives and confessions by the protagonists. The

nature of rehearsals, based on research and laboratory techniques, provides the environment for six performers to devise, enriching the performance's structure. In a fluid space, created by video installations, in a dialectic relation to their extreme physicality, this contemporary chorus will unfold their stories.

Our intention is neither historic retrospection, nor schematic moralizations, but the exploration of the inexorable quests about the nature of human being itself, which in spite its "civilization", continues with illogical and inhuman practices, that unfortunately we all witnessed even recently. Our effort will be to pose the right questions and to attempt to understand this "unpleasant" reality. Because, as remarks American writer and activist, Susan Sontag, in the preface of the book referring to the killers' confessions, "The issue, finally, is not judgment. It is understanding. To make the effort to understand what happened in Rwanda is a painful task that we have no right to shirk – it is part of being a moral adult."



*Entropia cast rehearsing Genocide.  
Photo: Emmanouela Vogiatzaki-Krukowski*

Concept, dramturgy, Director: Marilli Mastrantoni; Set and costume design, videos: Emmanouela Vogiatzaki-Krukowski; Music: Ilan Manouach; Movement: Marianna Xanthaki; Light design: Takis Diamantopoulos; Director's assistants: Thaleia Griva, Ismini Chliova-Bitzani; Scenographers assistant: Nikos Dalezios; Performers: Anna Garefalaki, Christoforos Dikas, Makis Kyrilis, Evgenia Manolika, Natasa Paschali, Grigoris Serbis; Production: Entropia.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Alternative Stage Festival to take place in December 2008**

We proceed in organizing the 6<sup>th</sup> Alternative Stage Festival, 1- 15 December 2008, in Athens, under the title "Interactive Virtualities". The festival is an opportunity for an @work meeting, as mentioned in Copenhagen. First thoughts are for ENTROPIA to organize a 3-day WORKSPACE, in order to continue the exploration of "Civilisation", with an open presentation in the end, and possibly some performances by members of the @work Network. I'd like to have your thoughts and feedback on that, since we have to start raising funds and we'd like to accommodate as many Network members as possible (providing work space, materials, food and accommodation), it would be useful if we knew the number of people from each House that wish to participate, by 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2008.

ENTROPIA intends to participate in the Resitance Festival in Sweden, in August 2008.

#### **News from the Finnish House**

##### **Reality Research Centre: "Spectator's body in a performance"**

Julius Elo and Tuomas Laitinen are the research leaders of 2008 with the subject "Spectator's body in a performance". With their research group of nine people (including Titta Halinen and Janne Pellinen), along the regular bodywork, they arranged three week long workshops about the subject, the last led by Felix Ruckert from Germany. Now they rehearse a retreat-performance **Luopuminen** that will be performed in Helsinki 11.-26.4. It will be a 12 hour long performance starting at sunset and lasting all through the night until dawn.

The research leaders from 2007, Janne and Pilvi, finished a report about the investigations of last year. Now there's a huge file with pics, vids and loads of text at the office waiting for future research workers to arrive. A selection is published on the internet, a shorter version will be in the next Theatre Magazine. Unfortunately it's all in Finnish and no one knows when we have time to translate any of it. We are having a general translation shortage going on as you might find out from our web pages. Sorry...

But! At least we are translating the script of **Lumo II – portrait of a new worker** as we wish to bring it to Resistance Festival in August and perform it in English. It will be a new version with Kolina van den Berg as Panda! Janne will be too busy working with a science fiction site specific reality game in Oulu.

Essi, Jussi and Janne attended the **Civilisation Workspace # 1** in CPH in February and would like to thank TeaterKUNST for such a well organised and inspiring occasion!

Since the beginning of March, Essi Aittamaa, Maria Nuutinen and Janne Pellinen have become official members of RRC.