



# Newsletter No. 8

July 2009

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

## Dear friends,

the main subject for this newsletter is definitely the Lappeenranta Workspace #2 that according to all accounts, has gone very well. You can read the full report by Janne in this issue, attached to the mail is another report by Paco from the Danish house. Meanwhile preparations are starting for the next workspace at Baltic Circle festival in Helsinki this November, and we should be hearing shortly from the Finnish organisation team that starts working in August.

We also have some news from Athens, London, Berlin and Copenhagen, while nothing was heard from Riddarhyttan.

Today I'm writing from Copenhagen, where Joy and I are working with Teaterkunst on the concluding piece for their Wall 2 Wall series. I wish you all a very pleasant summer, and hope to meet again soon.

Yours  
Jörn

PS. The next newsletter is due to be published in October. Please mail your submissions, texts and photos as always to [joern.burmester@googlemail.com](mailto:joern.burmester@googlemail.com). Looking forward to hearing from you until **September 15**.

## @work network in association with Lappeenranta City Theatre

### Report from WORKSPACE # 3: FIVE ROOMS OF CIVILISATION

Lappeenranta, Finland 4.-6.5.2009

by Janne Saarakkala

Arranged by Reality Research Center, production: Essi Aittamaa & Jussi Johnsson, workspace scenario: Titta Halinen, Pekko Koskinen, Maria Nuutinen, Pilvi Porkola, Maria Ruostepuro, Jonna Wikström, moderators: Janne Saarakkala (performance) & Pekko Koskinen (game), assistants: Maria Nuutinen & Maria Ruostepuro. Place: Lappeenranta City Theatre. Theme: game.

Tasks before the workspace:

1. Think of a viewpoint towards civilization that you would like to explore during the workshop. Formulate your viewpoint into a question, and bring this question to Lappeenranta.
2. Bring an object to the workshop that represents your viewpoint on civilization.

### @WORK NETWORK PARTICIPANTS

Finnish House (Reality Research Center): Titta Halinen, Jussi Johnsson, Maria Nuutinen, Maria Ruostepuro, Janne Saarakkala, Jonna Wikstrom

Danish House (TeaterKUNST): Paco Fernandez, Layla Mollerup, Sheila Trillingsgaard, Fadime Turan

Greek House (Theatre Entropia): Marilli Mastrantoni

Swedish House (Teatermaskinen): Anders Olsson, Emanuel Söderberg



*Is there civilisation to be found at Tolppa Grill?*

## OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Pekko Koskinen (Finland), Alfredo Martins (Portugal), Dirty Deal Teatro, Latvia: Krista Jansone, Valters Sīlis  
Actors of Lappeenranta City Theatre: Seppo Kaisanlahti, Jarno Kolehmainen, Marjatta Linna, Anne Niilola,  
Samuli Punkka, Heikki Pirhonen, Ilona Pukkila, Sirja Sauros

## FIRST DAY 4.5.

### CREATE A COUNTRY

#### Press conference

We started with a press conference with general knowledge about the @work Network and Workspaces. Unfortunately no representatives of media showed up. The local newspaper interview Jussi and Janne before the Workspace and wrote an article 5.5.

#### Choosing the most interesting questions

Each participant wrote down his/her civilisation question on a sheet of paper and then presented it with his/her civilisation object. Then all question sheets with the objects connected to them were laid on the floor and each participant wrote his/her name to the paper he/she found most interesting. The five questions that got most "votes" were chosen. The participants chose



*Green hats definitely are a token of a superior civilisation. Putting them on backwards seems questionable, though.*

again between these five questions, took their own objects with them and formed five working groups. Each group were given a space where to work and a specific material.

#### Creating a country

The task was to create a country in the given space around the chosen question and name the country. On the first day the groups were asked to concentrate in creating the country – a culture and how it functions. The group could use their own objects and materials waiting in the space.

#### The Outside Eyes

Moderators and assistants did not take part in the actual creation process. Their role was to be the outside eye. Janne concentrated in the directing the demo performance and Pekko in assisting the working groups to find game structures in their country. Assistants Maria & Maria documented the work taking place in the spaces and provided everything needed. They also took part in developing the demo scenario and taking care of the audience.

#### The countries, inhabitants, questions and objects/materials:

1. **Slowdownia** in the theatre courtyard: Alfredo Martins, Fadime, Paco, Sheila. How slow can we do it? Cell phone, theatre costumes
2. **Sejamaa** ("face land") in the studio stage of the theatre: Sanna, Valters, Krista, Ilona. Do all the relationships happen through web? (Are all the relationships nowadays in the internet?) Computer mouse, knife & fork, tall mirrors
3. **Now Here – No Where** in an apartment (two rooms and a kitchen): Emmanuel, Jarno, Marilli, Jonna. Where are we and who decides that? A man (Emmanuel), Post-it stickers
4. **Plastic Connection** in a hot dog kiosk: Heikki, Samuli, Jatta, Seppo. Can we survive without cell phones? Fake cell phone, plastic bags
5. **Reducia** in the theaters "library" (a small windowless room full of crap): Titta, Anders, Jussi, Layla, Anne, Lita. Reproduce or reduce? Pregnancy tests, eggs, video camera, video projector, screen

## SECOND DAY 5.5. COUNTRY INTRODUCTIONS / DEMO

The task for the second day was to prepare an introduction of each the country to a group of tourists (the demo spectators) in the evening.

### Demo scenario

In the morning the moderators and assistants presented the scenario for the demo. It was a cite specific travel performance to five countries; four group of tourists (spectators) led by moderators and assistants would visit each country not more than 15 minutes.

During the day moderators and assistants visited each country to help with the introductions. All the country introductions demanded more or less participation from the audience.

### The demo

The demo performance started from the theatre lobby at 19:00 hours. It took 1,5 hours and had approximately 20 spectators. Among them was the Baltic Circle producer Eva Neklyaeva. Some of audience found the participatory effect hilarious, exciting, memorable – some just weird and annoying.

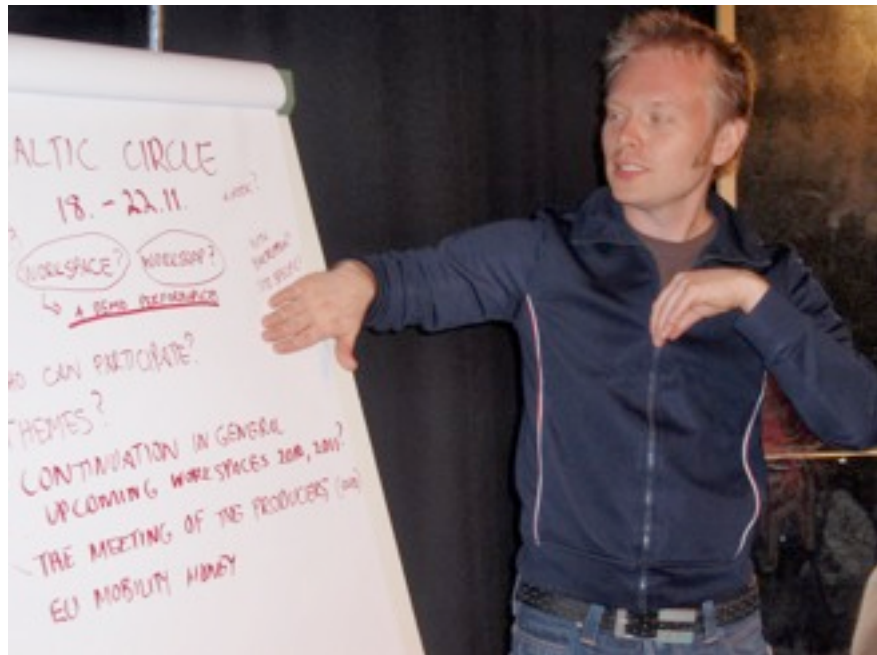
The evening ended in a party.

## THIRD DAY 6.5. – EVALUATION

Each group introduced their country to the other participants. Unfortunately we couldn't see Plastic Connection because the hot dog kiosk was suddenly in the middle of street construction work and inaccessible. After the tour each group took some time to prepare for the evaluation.

Evaluation questions to the groups: What was interesting? What would you like to continue?

Evaluation questions to the moderators and assistants: How did the workspace structure work? What did we learn from civilisation and our own interest in it?



*Evaluating the workspace.*

### SUMMARY

The feedback about the workspace and arrangements:

#### What was good?

the workspace was effective and well arranged; freedom in tight construction; the division of tasks, having the outside eyes (moderators and assistants) helped the country groups to concentrate in the task at hand from the other participants worked.

Country idea worked very well and most of the people would be ready to continue with it → micro nations Game-theme was well in bedded in the structure of the workspace and in the demo and also in the playful atmosphere which created a good contrast to the seriousness on the topic → In two days Sejamaa came up with a ready game concept based on the idea of “live facebook” that you could either participate in or just watch.

Challenging outdoor spaces (not necessarily easy or pleasant in the beginning)

### What was bad?

The groups were isolated from each other; more interaction was needed → in order to do it in this structure we should have a mid-evaluation and a mid-demo in the middle; show the work done, mix the participants somehow and work out a demo afterwards → a day or two more time

There was no food served for the actors from Lpr City Theatre → this created a unnecessary social division (this was a financial adjustment based on the fact that the actors got paid a proper salary for their work in the workshop and the others not)

### Civilisation topics rising from the work

#### What could we be interested in investigating more?

- Tourism as a sub-theme, invading the spaces, brought up topics like facing otherness, playing with alienation (playing with the rules of the “real world”) and communication.
- Rules and obedience
- Speed
- Slowness / sustainability as a new morality → B-society
- Pleasure vs. Boredom → boredom as a beginning of a civilisation
- Entertainment as a currency
- capsular society, capsular civilisation
- Power, violence, domination
- European Brain (little physics)
- Body as the last free space
- Holiness



*Bye bye Lappenranta. Hello Helsinki!*

### HOW WILL WE CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE?

#### Workspace #4 in Helsinki 18.-22.11.2009

Too many of the topics were inspiring, so we didn't choose a topic but decided that Reality Research Center will decide the form and the theme for the next workspace. It will take place in Helsinki in 18.-22.11.2009 as part of Baltic Circle festival. The producer Eva Neklyeva confirmed that B.C. will provide 10.000 € for Workspace #4. The only demand is a demo performance. And the rest is up to us. Eva also suggested cooperation with Baktruppen. Many thought this an interesting prospect. They could possibly participate in the workspace. This decision and how the B.C. money will be spent and the form of workspace was handed to RRC. Most likely Workspace #4 will continue the game-theme with the site specific country structure with outside eyes and inside micro nations. Also an idea of a showcase platform was suggested but was criticized for being too similar to the process of The Story of Work 2005 – 2007. Well, we disagreed and it was decided that the form of a Workspace is up to the organiser.

Reality Research Center, TeaterKUNST, Teatermaskinen, Entropia, Dirty Deal and Alfredo and Pekko are willing to participate the Helsinki Workspace #4. What about Emanuelle and The Red Room?

#### A production workshop in Helsinki?

It was suggested that after the actual Workspace in Helsinki there should be a production workshop for planning the future; a master plan at least until 2011 and EU applications etc. We need time to plan the future of the network; financial, artistic and organisational.

#### OD House meeting (producers meeting)

Essi Aittamaa will call ASAP a meeting for producers to discuss the future and prepare the production workshop.

#### In which context/applications it is appropriate to use network's name?

This was part of the discussion about whether we should apply for EU Mobility Funds suggested by Marilli. RRC thought the May 09 deadline too soon and so did TeaterKUNST. Teatermaskinen was interested,

possibly Dirty Deal. We had a long talk if Dirty Deal (for example) can be a co-partner in an @work Network application as it is not yet a House. We decided that it can be for this occasion (no-one voted against it). Anders reminded that in Athens we agreed that the Houses have a right to use the name as they please if they inform the others about the plans and decisions. I think everyone agreed that even so we need to continue discussing these matters together.



### Other bits

Alfredo Martins will be a satellite of the Finnish house.

Open space for all @work networkers and their stuff in Riddarhyttan all summer and beyond until the final festival in 2011 (and perhaps even beyond that)

Emmanuelle sent their contribution to the Lpr Workspace by post (including materials and instructions for Janne to perform a number about freedom) but unfortunately it arrived too late. The Freedom-demo will be seen in the future Workspaces.

### A rough sketch for upcoming workspaces in 2010 and 2011

Riga, spring/ May 2010 (in Dirty Deal's space)

Athena, October 2010

Copenhagen 2010

Berlin 2011

The final civilisation performance/platform in Riddarhyttan 2011

**P.S.** Lpr City Theatre was so pleased with the Workspace that it offers a space for another Workspace in Lappeenranta either in May or December 2010/2011. In case we want to go back there... (Janne and Jussi would be pleased).



**PPS.** Paco, member of the Danish house, has written an interesting account of his experiences during the workspace. It will be added to this newsletter as an additional PDF attachment.

*Workspace #3 was made possible in part through support by Nordic Culture Point.*

### News from the Greek House/Theatre Entropia

*By Marilli Mastrantoni*

As you probably all know by now, the **WORKSPACE #2** in Finland, at the hospitable Lappeenranta City Theatre, went very well. It was great to see & work with the Network's colleagues again and meet some new faces also. I now expect reports and proposals, artistic & production-wise, for the coming BALTIC CIRCLE Festival, so I hope to see some of you again in November in Helsinki. Meanwhile, please send some photos, guys!

I just came back from Brussels, following **European Commission's InfoDay** and several meetings.

**ENTROPIA's new international Project CUT** proceeds well. We've got a first grant from the European Cultural Foundation, so the Residencies will start in September '09, in order to conclude with the multimedia performance's DE-FENCES first presentation around March 2010. We expect to be in Berlin in November '09 & in Belfast in January '10, so those @work Network members interested in collaborating, participating (especially the ones residing in Germany & U.K.) or simply want to know more about it, are welcome to contact us in order to send them concept & details.

### Short description of project CUT

On the anniversary in 2009 of 20 years of Berlin's Wall fall, ENTROPIA's Ensemble will try to explore the impact in our lives (microcosm) of the tremendous changes on politics and society (macrocosm).

Through research of various materials, documents, testimonies and personal accounts, improvisations inspired by photos, images, reportages and texts, we'll attempt to test and grope our own identities in Europe's new geography, as well as to question the remaining "walls" and "separating lines".

The project will develop through research and residencies in still "cut" territories (Kosovo, Cyprus, N. Ireland, Palestine), as well as Berlin – Germany (a symbolic and important reference), climaxing in presentations-events, and concluding into the final multilingual, interdisciplinary, multimedia performance "DE-FENCES".

The spectacle (in between web installation and performance art), will be simultaneously performed live in Athens, Kosovo and W. Bank, real-time projected in Nicosia and Berlin and broadcasted via live-streaming on the Internet. With the assistance of New Technologies, our computer operators will enable the artistic groups to perform live in front of their city's audience, while at the same time being connected and interactive to one another and to Athens – Greece, where there will be the project's general control.

The event could also be projected via Internet on giant screens at selected spaces in other cities for their public.

### Project's Plan

A team of four artists of Theatre ENTROPIA, (Director – Dramaturge, Assistant Director, Visual Artist, Choreographer), the GUESTS, will visit both sides of the divided territory and reside there for a period of 8 days. There, they'll be joined by a group of local artists (Associate Director, four Performers, one Musician), proposed by the HOST organization in the area, and have an intensive workshop with them.

The two teams will work collaboratively, collecting material, coming in touch with both the divided communities, interviewing local people, exploring sounds, impressions, stories and memories, that will lead to a site-specific event, as a part of a work-in-progress, open to an invited audience the evening of the 8th day, and followed by a discussion / evaluation.

Work process and presentations will all be filmed and documented, in order to be used as reference material for the next 3 phases of the work:

- A visit and 10-day residency in Athens of the artistic teams involved in the project for the final preparations.
- The premiere of the final performance "DE-FENCES". At this phase, the publication of a bilingual (English & Greek) catalogue concerning the project and its development will be also completed.
- After a further elaboration, the performance "DE-FENCES" will be transformed into a multimedia production, enriched by the materials and experiences gathered during the previous phases of work, with the intention to tour in various Theaters and Festivals.

### News from the Danish House: Journeys, walls, old and new connections...

By Nina Larissa Basset

#### Then

Layla and Nina's trip to South Africa was eventful, if different than expected. Still very fruitful, Layla has developed her project to work with street children and new connections with ZA artists were founded.

In May Fadime Turan, Paco Fernandez, Sheila Trillingsgaard and Layla Torres Mollerup attended the inspirational Workspace #2 in Finland – and came home very inspired. We are looking forward to hosting Workspace #4 in 2010! To the joy of everyone there TK satellite Dirty Deal also attended the Workspace and hopefully will host Workspace #3.



*Teaterkunst and friends waiting for the Face Bus to the Secret Dream Location without walls.*

The FACEBUS visited different neighborhoods in Copenhagen and suburbs by night, inviting people to talk, create, play, make music and think about inclusion in the city.

### Now

Currently we are working hard concluding our two year journey with walls at the Metropolis Biennale where we are presenting Wall 2 Wall. We are joined by @workists Joy Harder and Jörn Burmester on this final venture and things are looking good. 10 artists are creating dreams on a secret destination in the city. The audiences are driven blindfold to the site and asked to name the dream of their choice.

### Next

In the Autumn we have been invited to participate on the Arts Council showcase P@RT.dk, with our mobile community, FACEBUS.

We also hope to have a development meeting with Create in Ireland and Freedom Studios in the UK, regarding a new writing project – contacts we gratefully found at the Resistance festival last year.

### News

TK has started our next 2 year project HISTORY REPEATING with a visit by our satellite Ivo Briedis in May. Dramaturge Nanna Rohweder is on leave from TeaterKUNST for the coming year. TK has got a new member in the creative team: musician and philosopher Thomas Burø - yes he is a man!

## News from the Berlin House: Emanuelle's Summer of 2009

by Jörn J. Burmester

We finally managed a complete meeting attended by Nicolas, Joy, Florian, Janine and Jörn in Berlin, to discuss recent and future activities of the network that Emanuelle has grown up to be. One development we observe is a new form of working partnerships in our group. It resembles a constant shaping and re-shaping of transient clusters of artists gathering around tasks or interests. This transient form makes it harder to achieve simple things like financing, but it is a practical and less hierarchic method of cooperation.

One cluster that was joined by Jörn, Nicolas and Florian was a workshop organised jointly by Performer Stammtisch and Schloss Bröllin e.V. to develop new working formats for people engaged in performance art and artistic research. For three days in the beautiful countryside we asked ourselves: **How do we want to work? What can we do to be able to do it?** There is strong interest to develop new open and communicative formats beyond traditional workshops, seminars and festivals from our diverse range of practices. The discussion continues, and additional correspondents are welcome.

There is also a growing interest for artistic research as artistic practice, which Nicolas encountered during his (now completed) Masters course in Dartington, and that continues to inform many of our activities. In June Nicolas organised a **Side Effects Research Station for the PSI conference in Zagreb**, where he was joined by Jörn and five other artists from different countries and backgrounds to research the gaps between intention and interpretation during this meeting of the international performance studies elite.

**Performer Stammtisch** remains another main cluster. Florian, Janine and Jörn decided to continue their successful curatorship into next year. The running season closed with a large event in Berlin, including performances by Florian and Jörn, and providing a stage for almost 30 emerging artists from around the world in collaboration with IPAH e.V. and Flutgraben e.V.



Meanwhile, Joy and Janine continue their exploration of zombies, cargo, and other important things.

## News from the British House: Red Rooms Women's Edition and new production OIKOS



10 May 2008 6-9pm @ Workingmen's Club, Bethnal Green (bar open until midnight)  
44-46 Pollard Row, Bethnal Green, London E2 6NB  
Price: by donation  
Tube from Bethnal Green (Central Line) then 5min skip 'n' strut.  
Only a short stroll away from the delights of Columbia Road, Shoreditch and Brick Lane.

Feminism is dead so they say... But is this true? Leading artists, activists and thinkers across generations get together to reveal feminism and its place in our lives today. Come and join us for a dynamic evening of debate, performance and provocation.

Women's Edition features Lois Weaver, David Hoyle, Anna Furse, The Muffin, Olusola Oyeleye, Rosa Goncalves, Karena Johnson, Semsem Kuherhi, Nazli Tabatabai-Khatambaksh, The Vacuum Cleaner, Smash Miss Contest, Zena Edwards plus a host of special guests. For up to date information visit the Red Room website [www.theredroom.org.uk](http://www.theredroom.org.uk)

photo credit: Performance of 'steaght 201' by susana sanicola and jana Wachsen, photograph by Larissa de laer

*In May, The Red Room dedicated their Women's Edition to discuss current issues of feminsim.*

This update from London was intended for the last newsletter, but unfortunately it reached us a few days too late. Here is some info on what our British friends were up to in May.

The Red Room is currently putting together a production called OIKOS which will examine the way UK and Western culture will respond to Post Industrialisation. Raising questions about what the world will be like in 2050 when we simply will not be able to use Fossil Fuels.

As part of this production we are inviting six writers and artists to respond to the idea of how climate change will effect human rights. We are currently seeking writers from across the globe. We have a UK based writer and a Hong Kong based writer. We are still searching for other collaborators

Also we intend to build a "house" to stage the work in. We are currently researching artists and architects who might be willing to work with us. In our search one that team that stands out is AMPHIS: comprising of Folke Kobberling and Martin Kaltwasser.