

# **DANCE FOCUS**

**February 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> 2018**

## **A collaboration between the emerging YOUNG DANCE NETWORK and THE SMALL SIZE NETWORK**

**During the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the Festival *Visioni di futuro, visioni di teatro...* in Bologna, Italy (Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> – March 4<sup>th</sup> 2018)**

A dance focus on the work for the very young reserved to 20 professionals, who are interested in the deployment of the network, who belong to 20 international companies.

It is going to be the occasion for a 2 days meeting, in order to figure out how to support the development of THE YOUNG DANCE NETWORK. By doing a practical workshop and theoretical considerations together (23<sup>rd</sup> of February) and by talking and also exchanging with members of the Small Size Network in order to learn from each other (24<sup>th</sup> of February).

The participation for the selected artists is free and has no entrance fee, but the Festival can't provide for accommodation and travel costs.

**Due to the limited availability of participants, we kindly ask you to send your expression of interest, by sending an email to [gabidandroste-dance@posteo.org](mailto:gabidandroste-dance@posteo.org).**

**Deadline: 25<sup>th</sup> November 2018.**

### **OPEN CALL Dance for the very young**

#### **BACKGROUND**

ASSITEJ is interested in supporting the multiple languages of dance and physicality, and their potential to cross the narrow linguistic borders that can separate us. We are interested to support and to engage in the significant artistic development within contemporary dance for children and young audiences.

For this reason we are busy with the shaping of a worldwide network for dance: THE YOUNG DANCE NETWORK. It is dedicated to the exchange of artists in this particular field. THE SMALL SIZE NETWORK wants to make this development fruitful and collaborates with the emerging network.

## **Festival *Visioni di futuro, visioni di teatro...***

The Festival in Bologna (February 23<sup>rd</sup> - March 4<sup>th</sup> 2018) is dedicated to the performing arts for the very young. We want to focus on dance for the very young during the next festival in February 2018.

### **ABOUT**

Theatre for the very young is a multidisciplinary arts form: Using words, music, space, objects, colours, sounds and silence. It is a very open and free arts form although we know that there are some theatre rules such as size of spaces, duration of performances, dealing with (eye-)contact. A lot of artists also work with the body in many different productive and creative ways. But there is something unique within dance for the very young.

Dance is a highly artificial and complex arts form, movements in dance are always formed as artistic signs and chosen for artistic reasons, and not only for its 'natural content'. Using the body as well as the creation of a dance performance for the very young are based on specific 'dance perspectives' and own dance / performative arts rules.

So: What are these specifics of this art form for young audiences? What makes the difference? And what is the potential of working with the body, with the tools of dance?

The meeting at the festival in Bologna gives us the opportunity to share our experiences, to reflect our own work and to work on these questions (first day).

The meeting gives us the opportunity to discuss about the emerging dance network and to share experiences with the SMALL SIZE network that is already existing for a long time (second day).

### **SEQUENCE (first day)**

**IMPULSES** The contributors reflect a specific aspect they think to be unique for dance for young audiences. By that they give impulses for the further common discussion and work of the whole group.

**THINK TANK** After the impulses we continue working in smaller groups.

**RESULTS** We end with a summary of what we shared, of our conclusions and ideas.

### **CONTRIBUTORS**

**Thomas Eisenhardt** (Roskilde / Denmark): Dancer, choreographer, teacher. Artistic Director **Aaben Dans**. **Omar Meza** (Granada / Spain): **DA.TE DANZA** Dancer and artistic director/choreographer. **Yutaka Takei** (Paris, France): **Compagnie Forest Beats** Performer and artistic director/choreographer. **Barbara Fuchs** (Cologne, Germany): Performer/dancer, director

**TANZFUCHS PRODUCTION. Gabi dan Droste** (Berlin, Germany): Dramaturge, (co-)director, theatre/dance pedagogue.

## **ALL participants**

Dance artists and practitioners are invited to present their own approach during the festival.

## **AIMs**

### ***First aim: Sharing!***

The aim is to share time and thoughts. The idea of the network is to bring artists together.

### ***Second: Qualify!***

By working out specific contents and describing them we define the specifics (frames) of our work.

### ***Third: Make our work visible.***

By clarifying the specifics of our work we have a base to make it more visible.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

### **CONTRIBUTORS**

**Thomas Eisenhardt** (Roskilde, Denmark): Dancer, choreographer, teacher. Artistic Director **Aaben Dans**. In 2008 he created his first piece for children. At that time he started the fruitful collaboration with director and visual artist Catherine Poher. Since then they have created eight pieces together for age groups from 6 months up to adults. Their work has received international attention and has been touring intensively in Europe, Scandinavia and Far East.

WEBSITE: [www.abendans.dk](http://www.abendans.dk)

**Omar Meza** (Granada, Spain): **DA.TE DANZA** Dancer, artistic director and choreographer. His main aim is to find out and to show that contemporary dance is a contemporary kind of language, deep and suitable for telling sensitive stories.

WEBSITE: [www.datedanza.es](http://www.datedanza.es)

**Yutaka Takei** (Paris, France): **Compagnie Forest Beats** Performer and artistic director/choreographer. The first specific interest he had, by approaching dance, was a progressive and deep awareness of the body. Then, he mixed this need together with the will of being day by day a better dancer and a better human being. This path is contaminated by different materials and suggestions: colours, music, videos, multimedia and, in general, all the experiences and inspirations she got from her masters and new technologies.

WEBSITE: [www.yutakatakei.com](http://www.yutakatakei.com)

**Barbara Fuchs** (Cologne, Germany): Performer/dancer, director **TANZFUCHS PRODUCTION**. She has created 9 pieces for young audiences that have been touring throughout Europe. Performances for the very young like *Kopffu Bler* (which roughly translates as “Headwalker”) and *Mampf* (“Munch”) are inspired by children’s unscrupulous curiosity – something that choreographer Barbara Fuchs has herself retained.

WEBSITE: [www.tanzfuchs.de](http://www.tanzfuchs.de)

**Gabi dan Droste** (Berlin, Germany): Dramaturge, (co-)director, theatre/dance pedagogue. Her special interest is the development of production processes for young audiences in collective structures based on artistic researches. She reflects and writes about artistic work for young people. And she is busy with shaping the YOUNG DANCE NETWORK.

WEBSITE: [www.gabidandroste.de](http://www.gabidandroste.de)

## **YOUNG DANCE NETWORK**

### **A global network for exchange**

ASSITEJ is interested in supporting the multiple languages of dance and physicality, and their potential to cross the narrow linguistic borders that can separate us. We are interested in promoting dance as both a permanent form of cultural expression which embodies particular traditions, histories and contexts, and as a contemporary tool with which people are able to connect with one another from whatever position they may occupy in the world. We are interested to support and to engage in the significant artistic development within contemporary dance for children and young audiences which has blossomed across Europe and in other parts of the world. We feel that even in places where the contemporary dance scene is vibrant, artistic work for young audiences specifically, has not yet received appropriate attention.

### **THE IDEA**

The Network aspires to create a space for long-term networking and development which in time would provide choreographers, dancers and dramaturges working across the field with a strong platform from which they can work, develop and energize the field of contemporary dance for young audiences. It will hope to develop strong bonds between artists, recruiting new interested parties, finding through exploration of common points of interest, new inspirations and possible collaborative projects and exchanges.

## **THE AIMS**

An aim will be to enhance methods for sharing competencies regarding dance for young audiences. The art of dancing is passed on from person to person. Through a process of learning from each other, each person acquires experiences that enable them to develop specific skills and competences. In order to learn more and to share these specificities, environments are needed in which to expose practices and ideas.

## **POSSIBLE EVENTS in the FUTURE**

By means of organizing short individual or group residencies/meetings at ASSITEJ events (or where possible, within independently set up workshops), the network members aim to provide environments where dance practitioners will have time to reflect and practice side by side. This may also be a space where artists working for adults may learn about dance for young audiences and have the opportunity to explore creating work for these important audiences.

## **INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGE – WORLDWIDE!**

This network will encourage artists to reach beyond their specific geo-political identities and to strive for mutual exchange of experience within creative processes, inspiring each other through exploring similarities and differences. Cultural diversity will be approached as a resource for learning from each other.

## **THE ASSITEJ and THE YOUNG DANCE NETWORK**

It is intended that the network will associate with ASSITEJ as a full member, thus benefitting from the international networking which already exists, and using ASSITEJ events and projects as platforms for exchange. As a network it may independently generate projects and activities, in its own right.

## CONTACT

### INFORMATION ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

La Baracca – Testoni Ragazzi

Teatro per l'Infanzia e la Gioventù di Bologna

Via Matteotti 16, 40129 - Bologna (ITALY)

**+39 051 4153731**

[festival@testoniragazzi.it](mailto:festival@testoniragazzi.it)

[www.testoniragazzi.it](http://www.testoniragazzi.it)

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Sending an email to [gabidandroste-dance@posteo.org](mailto:gabidandroste-dance@posteo.org)