

**Animation of Public Space:
Artistic Intervention Experiments to Encourage Audiences
to Co-Own Public Space in a Sustainable Way**

STUDENT WORKSHOP/EXCHANGE

26-30 September 2011

A week-long workshop designed for students from Theatre, Utrecht School for the Arts, Curso de Estudos Artísticos, Universidade de Coimbra; and Curso de Teatro e Educação, Escola Superior de Educação de Coimbra.

*Co-ordination: **Tatjana Brinkman** and **Dr. Nelly van der Geest**
(Utrecht School for the Arts, Netherlands)*



Hogeschool voor de Kunsten Utrecht

Guest lecturers: **Donna Risa** and **Jochem Naafs** (STUT Theatre, Netherlands), **Paul de Vries** (Utrecht School for the Arts, Netherlands), and *others to be confirmed*

What?

Set up

Students from different art institutions in the Netherlands and Portugal do site-specific experiments in the City of Coimbra. They reach out to a general public to encourage the audience to start to co-own public spaces in a sustainable way. This workshop aims to exchange approaches to artistic interventions in public space through practice-led research and experimental artistic activities.

Assignment

Prepare a performance on a given location that attracts its own audience and discusses within its performance the sustainable use of this spot.

Goals

- To raise knowledge of students on *sustainable use of public space* and on the topics *people* and *planet*.
- To research which artistic approaches lead to more co-ownership of public spaces of audiences using these locations
- To gain insight into processes of co-creation and interaction between artists and audiences.
- To gain insight into cross-cultural interdisciplinary processes of artistic collaboration.

Who?

- Six students from the Theatre and Education Department of the Utrecht School of the Arts, undergraduate level
- Six students from Artistic Studies, University of Coimbra, undergraduate level
- Six students from the Course on Theatre and Education at the College of Education of Coimbra (Escola Superior de Educação de Coimbra, ESEC)

These students will form three subgroups consisting of members from each school/university.

Where?

Chosen locations:

- Spaces of Movement and interrelation (e.g., local market, shopping areas);
- Inhabited Spaces, including those forgotten over the years – vacant spaces (spaces of memory);
- Heritage-related spaces (possible link with parks, gardens and nature)

A 'home base' for collective gatherings will be located close to the Mondego River – the site will be confirmed shortly.

The site-specific performances will be presented publicly on Friday 30 September 2011.

Biographies

Co-ordination

Tatjana Brinkman is a theatre artist at the Utrecht School of the Arts, Netherlands, who specializes in mask work. Whereas the face is the first mask of an actor, an actual mask makes it possible to have a bigger range with the body to play. Our third mask is the environment in which the character is acting. This is interesting input for site-specific theatre and animation of public spaces. Tatjana is specialised in projects that the focus on children.

Nelly van der Geest is a sociologist and theatre maker. She leads the Centre for Intercultural Studies at the Utrecht school of the Arts. She researches and leads innovative projects that focus on the interaction between art and society. She lectures in the MA arts education on (ethnic) diversity and social sustainability. She is skilled in improvisation, mask work, and co-creation.

Guest lecturers

Jochem Naafs is a researcher and dramaturge based in Utrecht, The Netherlands (Utrecht School for the Arts and STUT Theatre). In his work, he merges theory and practice. The focus of his research is on the transdisciplinary making process of theatre and dance. He has written articles and texts for various organisations (Sprindance, Danslab, and Nieuwe Grond ao) and for the magazines *Urbanmag* and *Volume*.

Donna Risa is the Artistic Director of STUT Theatre, a participatory community theatre company in Utrecht, Netherlands. She is skilled in both social work and drama. The main question she keeps asking herself is: What is the power of community art and what can it cause in our society? Currently, she is directing a play with people of 65 and older. It addresses various themes of importance to the elderly: lust for living, being lonely, and breaking taboos of sexuality and depression.

Paul de Vries – *available soon*

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**STUDENT WORKSHOP/EXCHANGE - SCHEDULE
26-30 September 2011**

Monday 26 Sept	Tuesday 27 Sept	Wednesday 28 Sept	Thursday 29 Sept	Friday 30 Sept
<p>11.00-13.30 Introductions and orientation to the week and to Coimbra</p> <p>Orientation to Day 1 activities</p> <p>Guided site visits to areas where theatre pieces to relate</p> <p>Composition of subgroups.</p> <p>14.30-17.00 First work round of subgroups</p> <p>17.00-18.00 Back together to compile initial impressions, ideas ... and to break into groups (by location?) Information on creative processes (Naafs)</p> <p>Evening dinner (own cost)</p>	<p>10.00-11.30 Collective start</p> <p>11.30 splitting up in subgroups</p> <p>16.00 gathering all subgroups: sharing of insight so far</p> <p>17.00 Guided visit of the University of Coimbra</p>	<p>10.00-11.00 Collective start (if needed)</p> <p>11.00-13.00 subgroup work</p> <p>14.00-16.00 'Reflections' session on activities, techniques, challenges... (Nelly, reps from O Teatrão to attend)</p>	<p>Symposium <i>Students can attend this day</i></p> <p>Own lunch</p> <p>Own choice/ Planning: subgroup work</p> <p>16.00-18.00 consultation possibilities with Paul de Vries/ Donna Risa/ Tatjana Brinkman</p>	<p>WORKSHOPS Students follow morning sessions of the Symposium's 'Theatre Workshop'</p> <p><i>See separate file for the details of the full-day Sept 30 workshop</i></p> <p>15.00-18.45 subgroup work</p> <p>About 19:00 – Final performance</p>