



Erasmus+



RE.Sto.Re

**REcognition of the Social Theatre Operator
as a professional to tackle the Risk of
social Exclusion**

Newsletter N.6 - MAY 2021

Partner organisation

Oltre Le Parole Onlus (Italy)
Comunità San Patrignano (Italy)
Smashing Times International Centre for the
Arts & Equality (Ireland)
ProSoc Association (Slovenia)
Bielskie Stowarzyszenie Artystyczne Teatr Grodzki (Poland)
PELE Associacao Social e Cultural (Portugal)
Magenta Consultoria Projects (Spain)

Associated partners

Università Roma Tre (Italy)
Assoc. San Patrignano Scuola e
Formazione (Italy)
Associazione DireFareCambiare (Italy)

NEW! We inaugurate, in this newsletter, Restore Breaking News, a new section to give voice to Europe experiences and share the updates of the project RE.STO.RE. Follow us! We will find out more about the occupation of the social theater operator/mediator.



A COLLECTIVE MANIFEST



Over the past months, PELE has been collectively thinking how to occupy the public spaces on March 8th - a symbolic day that represents the feminist fight for gender equality. We ended up calling out a variety of people from all ages and contexts to embark on a collective journey to find out what we could do together, even though we were all apart and in lockdown.

Throughout a handful encounters on zoom, we tried theatrical warm-ups, we followed each others' movements, we shared stories of women who inspire us, we drew our own protest posters... we stayed in silence, whenever it was needed.

After a few of these encounters, the group collectively decided they wanted to create a poem-manifest to express everything they feel it's urgent to change. We then invited everyone to film themselves at

home and on the streets, holding their protest words and firmly staring at the invisible spectators. When March 8th finally arrived, we occupied the digital public spaces with a video-manifest, with almost 100 participants - an artistic and political act which aimed

to activate and inspire everyone for the urgency of affirming gender equality, both on the private and public spaces. *This video-manifest* is the result of that inspiring collective movement, showing how togetherness can be achieved, even when we are all apart.

COMING TOGETHER (EVEN FROM A DISTANCE)

PELE launched *this video-manifest* as a result of a collective movement that gathered almost 100 participants from all ages and contexts. This artistic and political act aimed to activate and inspire everyone for the urgency of affirming gender equality, both on the private and public spaces. Now it's time for this creative group to embrace a new challenge: to prepare a street performance to be presented in MEXE festival, next September. Although, we keep exploring the online rehearsals to exchange ideas and experiments, soon we hope to finally gather the group in the same rehearsal room. For now the focus has been on the Manifest that was collectively written for the video, in order to use it as starting point for a performative walk around the city. This performance will raise awareness to the daily threats and the silent discrimination against women, which are present in our everyday life.

MERCARTES 2020, FORUM

23 MARCH, STREAMING



Several professionals and associations from the Performing and Musical Arts sector have been working for months to design a common strategy and define and reinforce public action in defence of the sector. At the end of March 2021, the conclusions of this work has been presented, where all of them will appeal to the Public Administrations with necessary proposals that are necessary. This forum, who has already been carried out years before, is an amazing opportunity for those who belong to the theatre field or those who work in the management of cultural resources to come together and share experiences and find solutions to problems that may have arisen in the sector.

www.faeteda.org/es/nueva-fecha-para-mercarteres

Who is FAETEDA

FAETEDA (**Federation of Associations of Performing Arts Companies**) was created in 1996 with the purpose of boosting the industrialization, modernization, development and structuring of the Spanish theatre industry. It is a member of the Performing Arts Employers Associations League Europe (Pearle*), which represents more than 10.000 live performance organizations in Europe.

FAETEDA is formed by **15 associations** which represents more than **300 private companies and theaters** from Aragon (ARES), Asturias (EscenAsturias), Basque Country (ESKENA), Cantabria (ACEPAE), Castile and Leon (ATESACYL), Castilla-La Mancha (ESCE-NOCAM), Catalonia (ADETCA and CIATRE), Community of Madrid (APTEM and ARTEMAD), Galicia (ESCENA GALEGA), Region of Murcia (MURCIA A ESCENA), Valencian Community (AVETID), Navarre (ESNA) and Rioja (AESCENA).



RACISM IS NOT OPINION



Oltre le Parole
teatrocivile.it



From 21st to 27th March Oltre le Parole participated in the XVII International Day against Racism promoted by the U.N.A.R. (National Office against Racial Discrimination of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers), together with the association “Chiave di Svolta” and other partner organisations all over Italy. The title of the event is “Racism is not an opinion”. From 22 to 26 March, young “Giornalisti Nell’erba” have conducted activities with students from 5 Italian regions. On 27 March, which also be World Theatre Day, a street performance reading held with the support of various artists working on the theme of integration. Artists from various cities in Italy will be involved in interactive performances.



REFLECTION: THE SOCIAL SPACE AS A COLLECTIVE ACTION

When we speak about space, we are inevitably considering a social space. One that is continuously imagined, created and shaped primarily by collective action. On the one hand, we can observe a transformative act imposed on nature, where the human sculpts the space at his own convenience. On the other hand, we can also watch phenomena through which nature approaches and restrains the human action and his interaction mechanisms. The on-growing collective movements against pollution not only express the cannibalistic act on nature, but they also show an awareness of the effects of this process of humanization of space. In this interdependent relationship, human and more-than-hu-



man communities evolve on a chemical, physical and molecular scale, in which we can find dichotomous systems, such as oppression or creation of the “common”. It is in this plurality and diversity of discourses that are present in the social space and in its profoundly antago-

nistic genesis, that we can possibly enunciate shared directions. It is also in this dialogue, where the conflict is generated and managed, that other interaction approaches between species and other community/neighbourhood experiences may emerge.



SOCIAL ART AND MIGRANTS "RAPPORT" PROJECT



sent four nations: Lithuanian, Byelorussian, Russian and Polish. The participants get together via ZOOM platform once a week to explore the issues related to migration, traveling, and being an alien in a foreign country. At the beginning of the cre-

The Bielsko Artistic Association Grodzki Theatre from Poland (one of the RESTORE project partners) has been involved in the international actions focused on promoting integration between host and refugee/migrant communities, since September 2019. The main aim of the "RAPPORT" initiative ("Refugee Arts with Participants and Practitioners Open to integRaTion") is to use arts as a tool to challenge preconceptions and negative attitudes towards migrants/refugees, and to celebrate and confirm shared humanity and the positive impact of integration. The development of collaborative community arts practice between four European partners (from Poland, UK, Spain

and Sweden) includes devising and running creative workshops which nowadays have to be implemented virtually, due to pandemic situation. At the moment, social theatre operators and arts facilitators from all four project partner organizations work with their groups to create an innovative multi-arts performance, using theatre, dance, digital art, film and puppetry. In the same time they keep in constant touch to discuss various ways of connecting four separate art works and conclude partner exchange of creative methods and experience with joint presentation under the title "BABEL". Its premiere has been planned for June 2021.

In Poland, the workshop group consists of people who repre-

sent four nations: Lithuanian, Byelorussian, Russian and Polish. The participants get together via ZOOM platform once a week to explore the issues related to migration, traveling, and being an alien in a foreign country. At the beginning of the creative process they were introduced to the basics of puppet theatre – they learned how to build a simple puppet out of paper and string and how to animate it. Now, it's time for developing personal stories to be further told by puppets and objects through non-verbal, visual narration. The participants draw inspiration from their own life experience first of all, but also from the collection of sentences shared by all workshop groups in four partner countries.

These key phrases are the voice of those who directly experienced difficult times of being in exile, feeling homesick, searching for own identity.

I long to travel, my soul yearns for it.



At this moment I feel as if I am suspended and do not know how to start again.

Yes I'm ready to go!

Hooray freedom!

I have learned many things from this tornado.

I am here and I am alive, I am present and I have a body.

Listening to a native language from my childhood, I can see a non-existing world.

What people have lost when

building Babel Tower? A common understanding.

Some of the above quoted sentences will appear in the final "BABEL" presentation which is hoped to be an artistic contribution to a lasting social change.

RAPPORT PROJECT:

www.acta-bristol.com/rapport

Project duration:

16 Sept 2019 / 30 Apr 2022

PROJECT COORDINATOR:

ACTA COMMUNITY THEATRE LTD, Bristol, UK

<https://www.acta-bristol.com>

PROJECT PARTNERS:

- BIELSKIE STOWARZYSZENIE ARTYSTYCZNE "TEATR GRODZKI",

Bielsko-Biała, Poland

www.teatrgrodzki.pl

- HISTORIEBERATTARNA,

Stockholm, Sweden

<http://historieberattarna.se>

- TANTARANTANA TEATRE

S.L., Barcelona, Spain

<http://tantarantana.com>



STORY OF LINDA, WHO MET PIRANDELLO AND REALIZED SHE COULD BE HERSELF!

San Patrignano has always offered young people a time and place to rediscover themselves, completely free of charge. In this space, theatre, music, dance and art can become further opportunities to get to know oneself and others, places in which to grow. From this idea, in 2013 the 'Compagnia di San Patrignano' was officially born, and in 2015 the community's Artistic Centre, which brings together all the artistic/educational workshops for the guests of San Patrignano. And it is precisely through the words of one of these young people that we want to share with you the sense of our work and our objectives, which fully encapsulate our idea of what the figure of a social theatre operator represents.

Enjoy your reading!

"When I was 14/15 years old I was like I am now. I liked reading, I liked saying it, I was always against cigarettes, against drugs. I was very determined about what I wanted to be, sure of what I was. Then, when I think about what I became only a year later.... Like everyone else, out of fear of being alone, because I felt I was never good enough, and because of so many other things, in the end I built the mask that was most suitable for being with others, so I was certainly a bit built.

Even now, when I think about how I became so fake, it still bothers me. It took a while but I finally real-

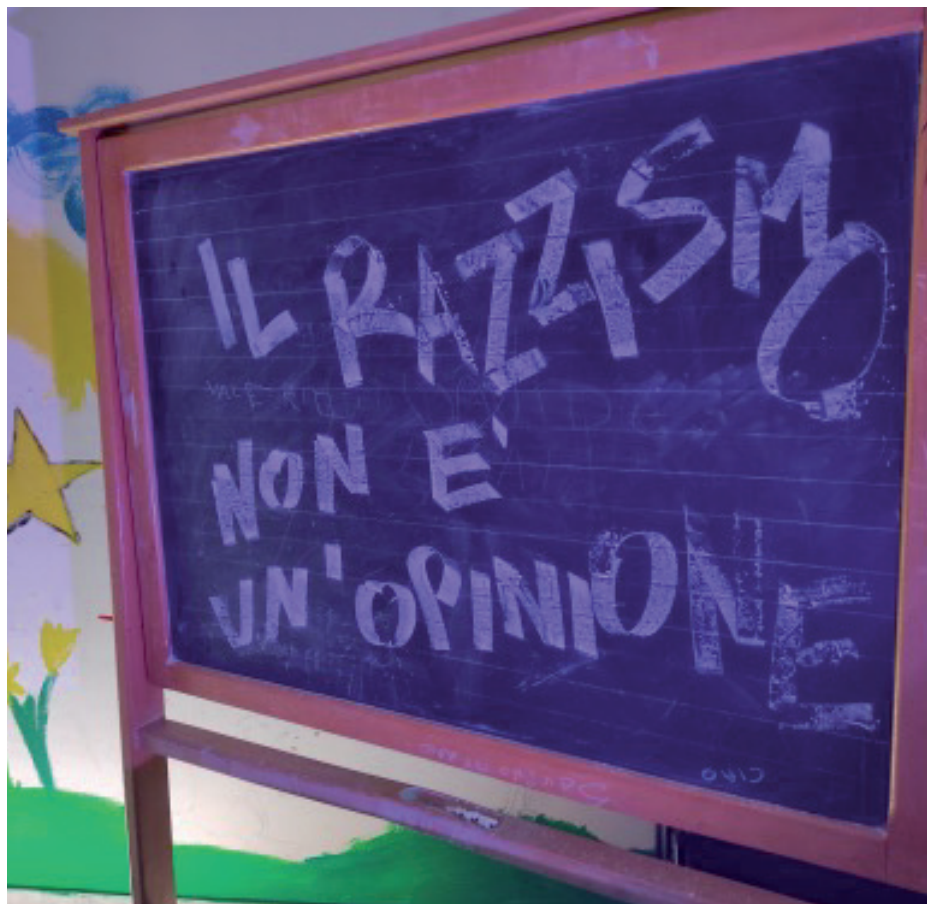


ised. I had been using for a while, I had been arrested, I realised that I was losing everything and everyone, I didn't make sense any more, I couldn't go to school any more ... At a certain point I said no! In the past I didn't pay attention to many things, I didn't consider them important. In fact I didn't consider them at all. But now, for me, the sense of things is a conquest that I make day after day. At the end of a day, for example, I look back and I see that I've been busy, I've studied, I've worked, I've spoken to some of my community mates. Maybe that day wasn't even that good at times. But arriving in the evening, looking around and seeing people next to me who love me as I am, that I no longer need masks, makes me believe in myself, that I can do it. Maybe that day wasn't even that good sometimes. But when I get to the end of the day, I look around me and see people who love me as I am, that I don't need masks any more, it makes me believe in myself, that I can

succeed. This is the sense that San Patrignano gave me, a sense that I then rediscovered in many other things I do, in my studies, in my relationships, in my projects. And in the theatre, because the theatre has helped me so damn much. There's a phrase we recite, it's by Pirandello and it says 'Then it happens to me, to find myself in front of a mirror, to look into the eyes of the mirror that doesn't look at him, and I keep asking myself: Hey you... who is the ghost between us? Every time I say that, I am moved, and when we did the show here in the community, it allowed me to bring out something of mine that belonged to me, something deep and sincere that had been silent for a long, long time. And I realised that I was capable of expressing myself, capable of sharing my emotions, my thoughts without being afraid, without needing a substance to have the illusion of doing so.

And I saw my future, and with it myself, finally free. **Linda**

WORK RESILIENCE: OLP's VOICE



Social theatre in schools

The association continues its Social Theatre programs in schools despite the problems associated with “distance learning”. In February we carried out activities for the “Surreal Carnival” this year dedicated to the great artist Caravaggio. In March, the “Keep Out Racism” project in collaboration with UNAR (national anti-racial discrimination office of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers) which saw the participation of numerous schools from all over Italy for online meetings and face-to-face activities that produced the video you can see here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-jKUfA2q8LQ

Activities in April continued with a new collaboration in northern Italy for a project against early school leaving. Finally, the association became part of the official activities for the celebrations of the 750th anniversary of the birth of the great poet, father of the Italian language, Dante Alighieri. School activities will start in September.

Social theatre with the elderly

The playful-expressive social theater activities “Dal Palco al Parco”, created by Oltre le

Parole onlus and DireFareCambiare (dedicated to the elderly in times of pandemic), was reported in the international project “Creative aging”. It is a research curated by #BAM! StrategieCultural and by the Embassy and Consulate General of the Netherlands in Italy, with the focus on cultural projects dedicated to creative aging and a mapping of Italian good practices. At this link the results of the initiative: www.bamstrategieculturali.com/en/portfolio/creative-ageing-2/

A short video of the project is visible on youtube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=_2-nCt4h-bnU

Social theatre in pediatric wards

“Accendi la Camera” is the project created by Oltre le Parole and supported by the Terzo Pilastro Internazionale Foundation, dedicated to young patients hospitalized in paediatric wards: a mix of online activities, offline activities and face-to-face activities, which looks like an experimental pilot to assist the activities in hospital wards (especially those normally already isolated such as haematology

and oncology).

Several Social Theater Operators from Southern Italy will participate in the project. The project will start in May: therefore in the coming months we will be able to give more detailed information on the project.

Social theatre and social workers

“Oltre le Parole” will be the guest on April 21 of an important initiative promoted by the Order of Social Assistants of the Marche Region in collaboration with the prestigious University of Urbino.” Theater as a possibility. Expressiveness, relationship, com-



munity “is the title of the Webinar that it foresees the participation of well-known guests: university professors, national managers of the Order of Social Workers, experts in Theater in the Social, including the president of Oltre

le Parole, Pascal La Delfa. An important comparison between the institutions and the territory, passing through the activities of the Theater as an instrument of relationship increasingly present in our communities.



SMASHING TIMES PRESENTS THE ART OF WITNESS: A CREATIVE EXPLORATION OF LANGUAGE, IDENTITY AND CULTURE ON THE ISLAND OF IRELAND FOR THE ANNUAL MOTHER TONGUES ARTS FESTIVAL 2021

Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts and Equality, in conjunction with the Annual Mother Tongues Arts Festival 2021 are delighted to host a presentation of creative practice and online panel discussion on the creative exploration of language, identity and culture on the island of Ireland. 'The Art of Witness' takes place online on Friday 14 May 2021 at 7.30pm. Artists include award-winning writer Féilim James whose work in both Irish and English has won several awards and bursaries including the Arts of Council of Ireland Literature Bursary Award 2020, as well as a Professional Development Award; Noelle McAlinden, from Northern Ireland who is a visual artist, creative advisor, mental health campaigner, curator and cultural broker; Richard Edgar, Author and Historian and Kwasi Boyce, Artistic Director of M.A.D. Youth Theatre, Dundalk. Our event takes place in partnership with Mother Tongues Festival and features discussion with all panel members, moderated by Kwasi Boyce, intercut with poetry readings by Féilim James and visual art offerings by Noelle McAlinden. Across Ireland, Northern Ireland, Europe and beyond citizens of all backgrounds and cultures are finding ways to come together to create spaces where culture

The Art of Witness Online event

Artists and Panel:

**Féilim James, Noelle McAlinden
and Richard Edgar**

Moderator:

Kwasi Boyce

Where:

Online via Zoom

When:

Friday 14 May, 7.30pm

Booking:

www.eventbrite.ie/e/the-art-of-witness-a-creative-exploration-of-language-identity-and-culture-tickets-150783059189



**An Roinn Gnóthaí
Eachtracha agus Trádála**
Department of
Foreign Affairs and Trade



works to strengthen social ties. Smashing Times are delighted to bring together a panel of artists, creatives and communities from both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland to share artworks and generate dialogue on how the arts can be used to explore themes of language, identity and culture in relation to equality and rights and to imagine alternative ways

of living and engaging with others in understanding, trust and peace on the island of Ireland and beyond. Presented by Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts and Equality as part of State of the Art and Creative Connections. Supported by The Arts Council of Ireland and The Reconciliation Fund, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

PANEL MEMBERS

Féilim James, Writer

Féilim James is a writer from Dublin, Ireland.

In 2020, the Arts of Council of Ireland awarded Féilim a Literature Bursary Award to finish his debut novel, Flower of Ash, as well as a Professional Development Award. He also received an Arts Bursary from Dublin City Arts Office in 2021 to finish his

first poetry collection, *I was a river*, lost. His short fiction and poetry have appeared in numerous journals, including *The Fiction Pool*, *The Galway Review*, and *Icarus*. His work through Irish, under Féilim Ó Brádaigh, has won seven literary awards.

[Visit his website.](#)

Noelle McAlinden,

Visual Artist, Creative Advisor, Mental Health Campaigner, Curator and Cultural Broker.

Noelle McAlinden is a practicing artist exhibiting locally, regionally and Internationally with work in public and private collections across the UK, Europe, US and Canada. Noelle is a Creative Adviser, Curator, Arts Educationalist, a former Head of Art and Design in a Post-Primary school and Senior Lecturer for Arts at Fermanagh College of Further Education. As an Arts Activist for almost 39 years Noelle has worked across statutory, voluntary, youth and community sectors. Noelle is passionate about all artforms promoting visual and performing arts, moving image, film and digital literacy. She was Chair of Creative Youth Partnerships and served as Chair of The Forum for Local Government and the Arts. She is an active advocate for the arts supporting the development of artists and creatives and promoting

collaborative and strategic partnerships locally, regionally and Internationally. Noelle is also passionate about the power of the arts to transform communities, support cultural tourism, economic regeneration, health and wellbeing and support for peace and Reconciliation..

Richard Edgar

Author and Historian

Richard Edgar is an Author and Historian based in Portadown.

He has a keen interest in Genealogy and is also a regular contributor to Portadown Heritage Tours.

IMPACT Repertory Theatre Performance Company, Negro Ensemble Company and Theatre For the New City. He was drawn to theatre companies where Activism is at the core to the work they create and stories they tell.

He took part in many film projects including features in *Vikings*, *Red Rock* and *Bloods*. He is the Founder and Artistic Director of Dundalk's M.A.D. Youth Theatre and proud to say they are heading into their 10th Year. They have devised and produced award winning plays and have a reputation for taking risk and not shying away from issues that young people want to talk about. He



Kwasie Boyce

Artistic Director of MadYouth Theatre, Dundalk.

Kwasie Boyce, lives in Dundalk, County Louth. He was born and raised in Trinidad and later grew up in New York from his early teens. He found his calling as an actor and trained and performed with

works as a freelance drama facilitator in schools and various youth organisations and currently serves as Dundalk Youth Centre's programme coordinator for PEACE IV Anti-clockwise programme, where they use art as a tool to explore conflict, peace and reconciliation.

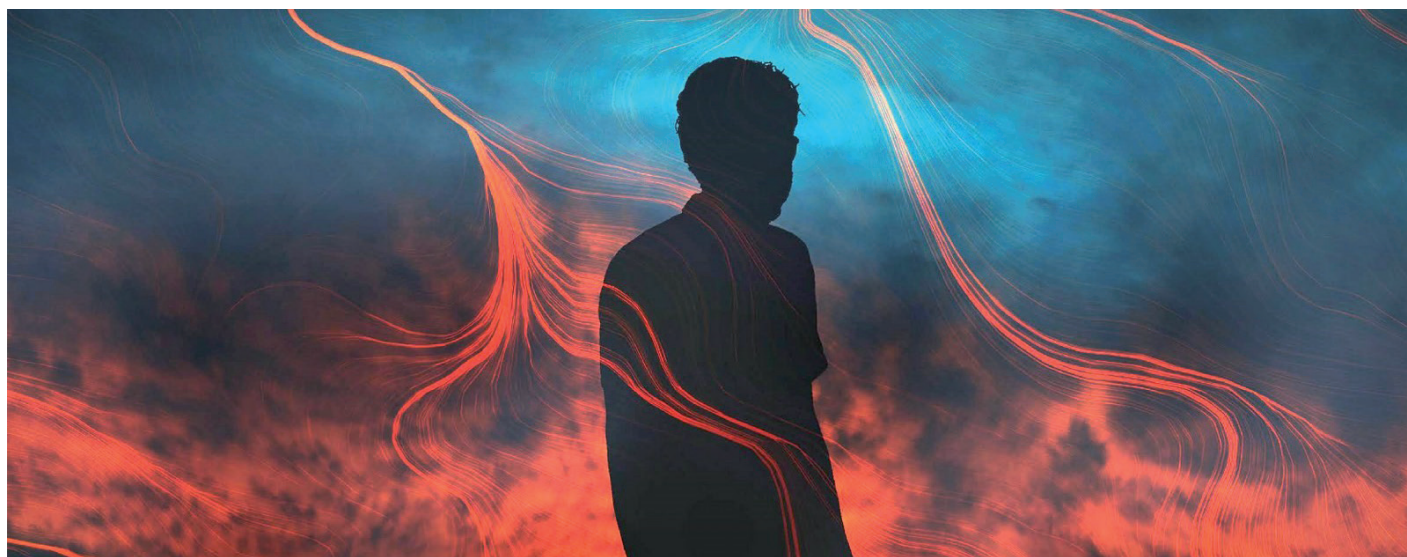
MOTHER TONGUES ARTS FESTIVAL 2021

With a programme featuring over 40 artists, Mother Tongues Arts Festival 2021 will take place primarily online, keeping participation at the heart of their programme with the Walk A While initiative. The Mother Tongues Festival remains the largest Irish Festival celebrating linguistic diversity throughout the arts. Until 2020, the week-end-long Festival took place on the 21st of February to celebrate its founding organisation's first birthday and UNESCO's International Mother Language Day. This year, the programme will take place throughout May 2021 in conjunction with World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. The Festival will feature a dynamic programme of art workshops, school visits, film screenings, and a series of events available in 20 different languages. To learn more about the 2021 Mother Tongues Festival and to get your tickets, visit www.mothertonguesfestival.com Smashing Times International



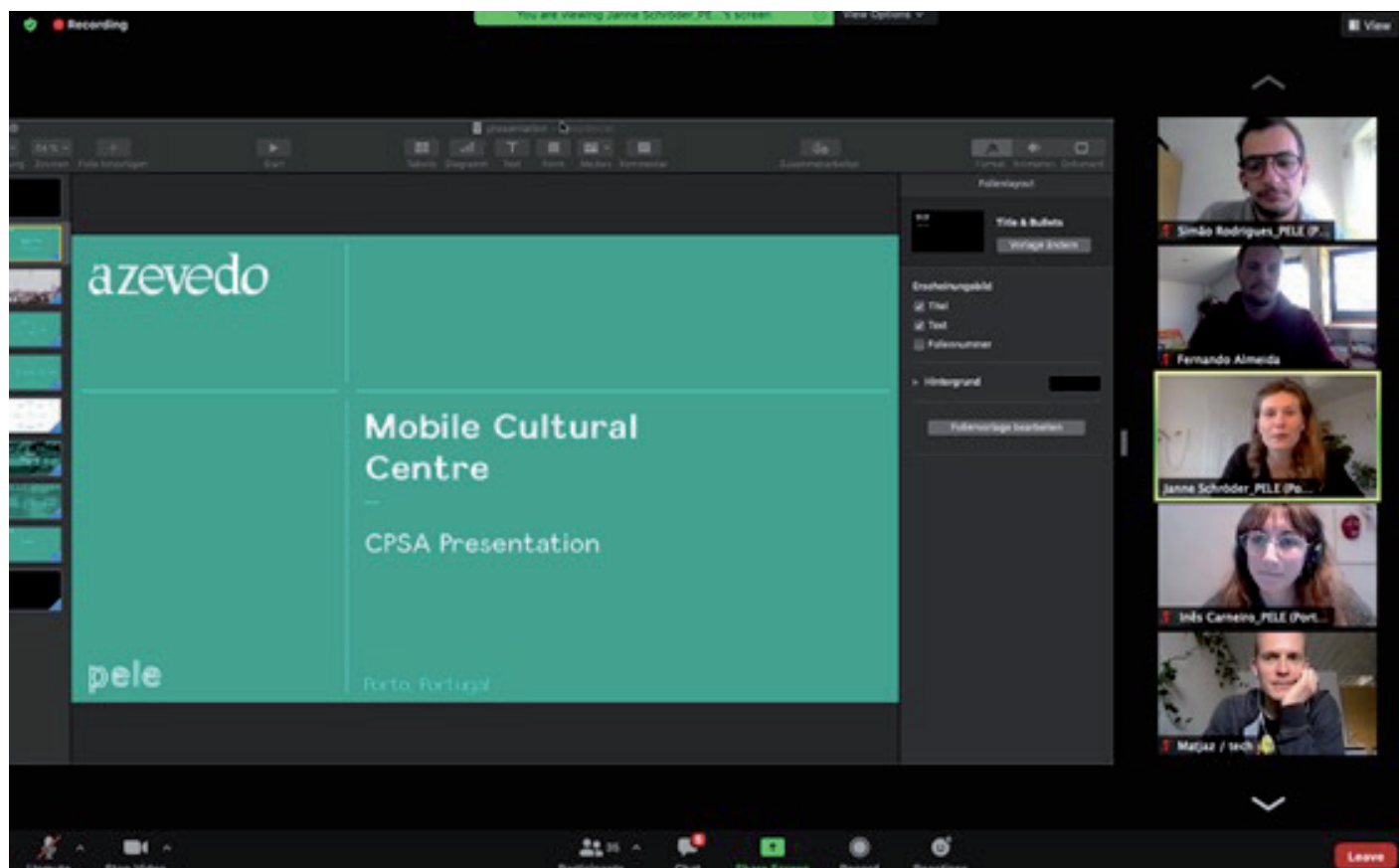
Centre for the Arts and Equality is dedicated to the promotion, study and practice of the arts, human rights, climate justice and gender equality. Smashing Times is an international award-winning organisation working with artists, citizens and communities to create collaborative art practice in local, national, European and international settings. Our mission is to lead the development of the

arts to promote and advance equality and human rights and to connect citizens to the arts, human rights, climate justice and gender equality. For further information please visit the [Smashing Times website](http://SmashingTimes.com) or contact the Smashing Times office on info@smashingtimes.ie or call us on +353 (0) 1 865 6613 See www.smashingtimes.ie Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



"ON THE WAY HOME, I WANT TO BE FREE, NOT BRAVE"

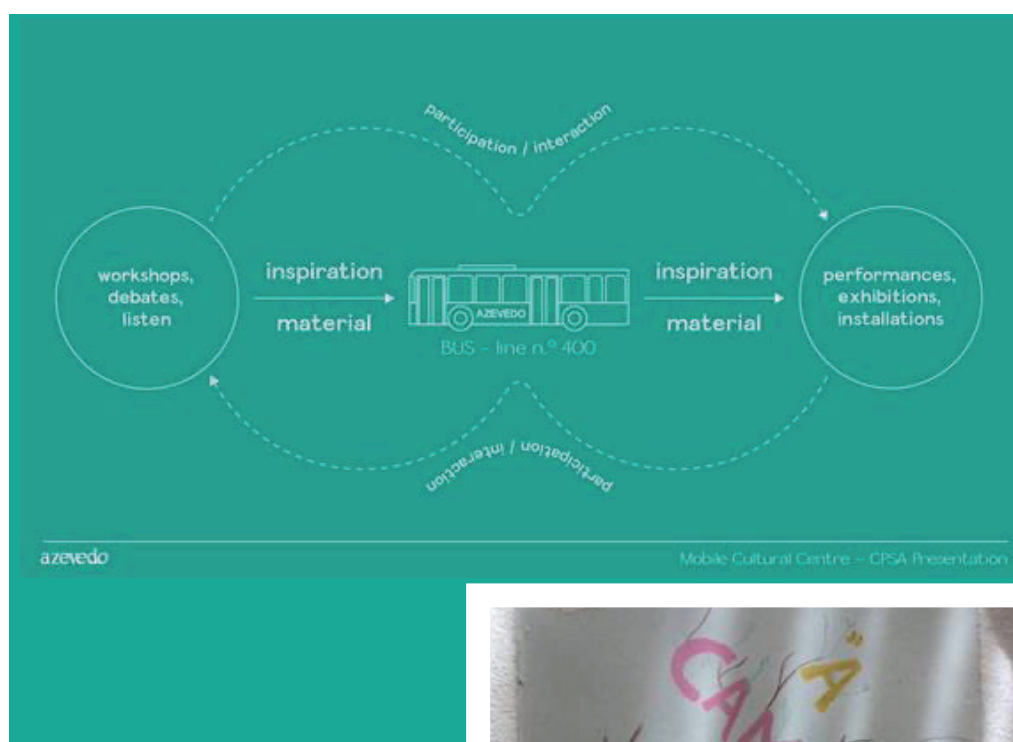
CONFERENCE: CONTEMPORARY PERFORMING STREET ARTS



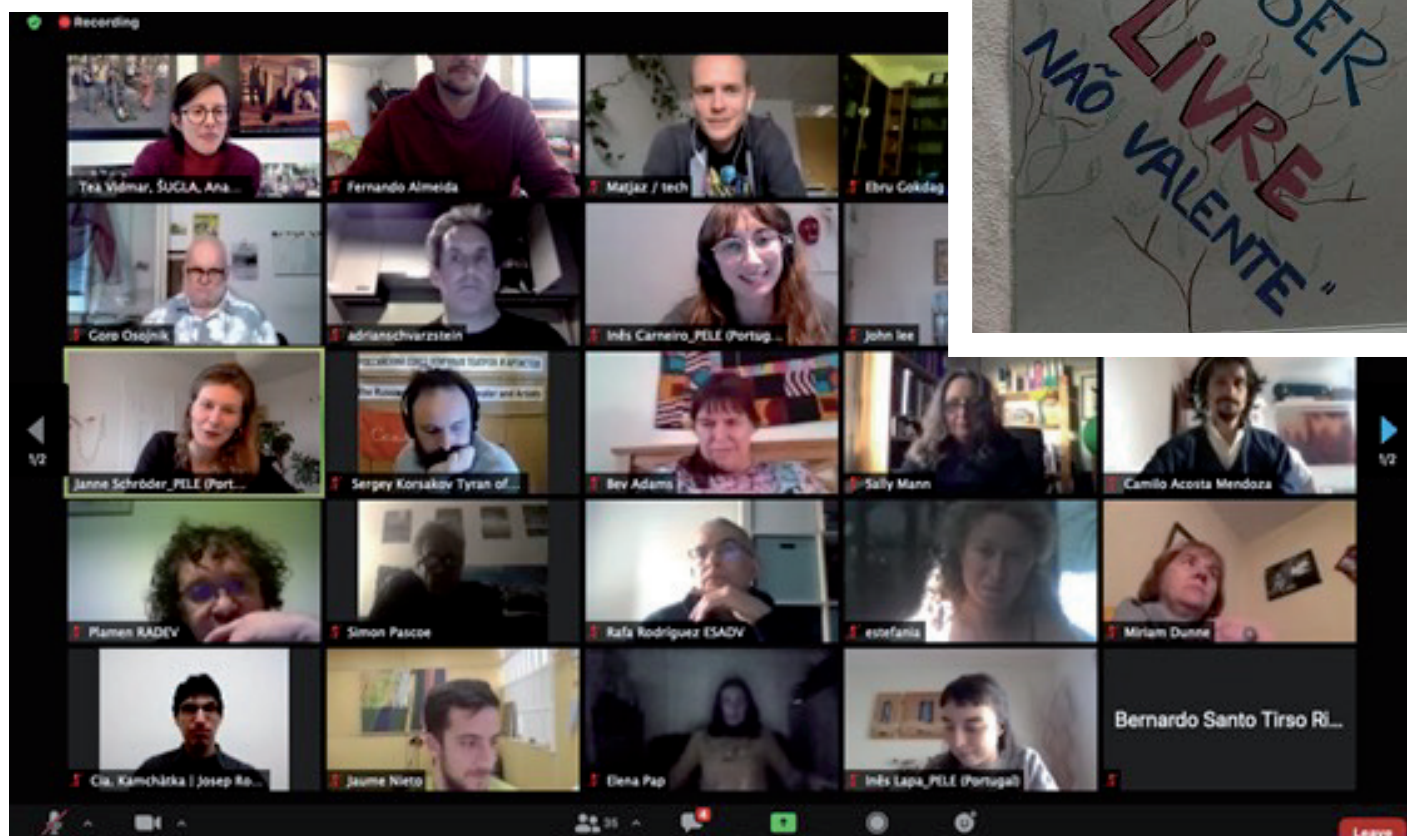
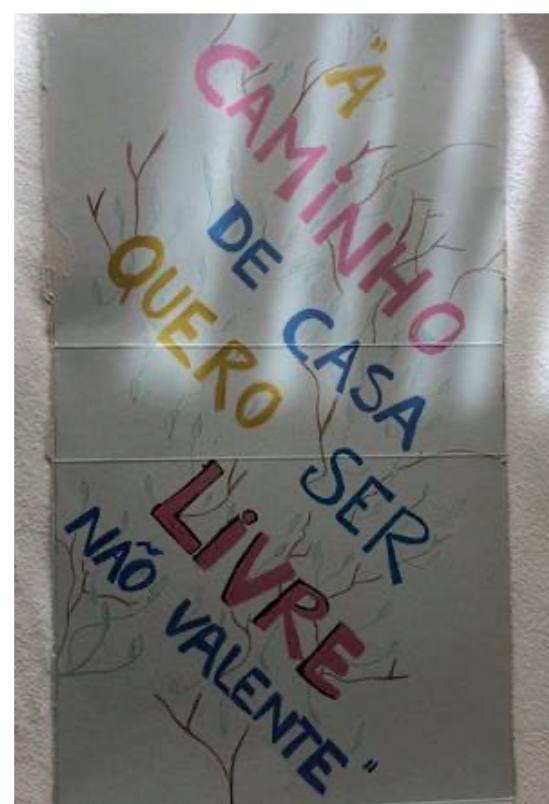
Between 23rd-25th March, PELE participated in the Contemporary Performing Street Arts (CPSA), an online conference about Developing Teaching Methods, organised by Efetsa - European Federation For Education and Training in Street Arts. During the CPSA Conference, our team had the opportunity to present our new project „Centro Cultural Móvel” (Mobile Cultural Centre), in Porto. The project is an artistic and participative approach to explore the relationships between a bus, its passengers and its creative potential. Through monthly artistic creations we aim to explore



different artistic languages to produce new dynamics inside a bus and offer different possibilities of participation. By taking part in the conference, we could get to know many different artistic projects, approaches and teaching methods of Street Arts. It was not only interesting to see what's happening in the streets of Europe, but also to connect and network with a wide range of projects, organisations and artists. A lot of knowledge and teaching methods were shared, ideas presented and issues of art in the streets discussed. The conference was a first step for building a network of artists working on such a colourful, exciting and unpredictable space like the streets. Togeth-



er we realised how we can create, define and shape public spaces, while expressing and challenging ourselves in many creative ways!



THEATRE AND ART IN THE SOCIAL FIELD.

THE PROJECT "EUROPE BEYOND ACCESS"

BY BRITISH COUNCIL AND EUROPA CREATIVA

We would like to point out an interesting project related to the interests and activities of Theatre and Art in the social field carried out with the British Council and the European Creative Europe programme. "Europe Beyond Access" is an ambitious and far-reaching project with four main themes: Arts Exchange, Audience Development and Engagement, Capacity Building and Public Performances and Commissions. You can find more detailed information on each area of our work here.

www.disabilityartsinternational.org

www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMGzzAEHpYo

AZEVEDO: THE DEPARTING POINT

Azevedo is a regenerative artistic creation program that proposes to establish a dialogue between the territory of Azevedo, resident communities (human and more-than-human) and national and international creators. Through this project, PELE aims to awaken processes of collective creation and community participation, promoting the activation of common spaces through artistic intervention. In this context it proposes to develop 4 micro-stories: Satellite, Common Place, Mobile Cultural Center and Expanded Parliament. Each, as part of a broader issue, will be fueled by the dialogue between resident communities and invited creators, in a shared and dynamic investigation of other cultural forms of identity. ***This teaser*** reflects our arrival to these new communities, where we will be challenged to find other ways of experimenting, converging and sharing.





BREAKING NEWS

by the editorial staff

Today we are launching a new column entitled Restore Breaking News, with the aim of giving voice to European experiences and numerous projects linked to social theatre.

We would like it to be a “physical space”, at a time when we are living in a virtual world, to be built together, thanks to your valuable reports and suggestions, in a participatory and integrated effort.

We begin by announcing that the European questionnaire entitled “Theatre operators in social work at the time of Covid” was completed in mid-April by the OLP partner.

The survey, carried out within the framework of the “Restore” project, will try to give a picture of the situation in the last year at European level: both for theatre operators/facilitators and for users who have reduced or completely stopped their theatre activities in the last months.

In addition to the 7 European partners, the questionnaire was circulated to operators in other EU countries.

The results of the research will be processed in the coming weeks and will be published in the next newsletter.

An important note well: we would like to draw your attention to the publication of the new calls for Erasmus Plus projects. The projects financed by the Programme must concretely achieve the general and specific objectives for each area.

The deadlines are different: from May to September depending on the programme and the area in which you want to participate.

More information on:
<https://erasmusplus.eu/>