

FORSØGSSTATIONEN

THE VOICE OF THE AUDIENCE (Lyden af publikum)

The Voice of the Audience is a research project developed by The Lab Station and is a 'micro event' in Caravan Next, a large scale European Social Community Theatre project, ideated by Odin Teatret – Nordisk Teaterlaboratorium. The overall aim is to create a common ground for very diverse groups of residents in local communities through artistic activities in order to stimulate the development of a sense of belonging, connection and identity.

This specific project lead by the Lab Station has chosen as its focus the audio identity of the audience in the theatre and is based on Vsevolod Meyerholds sound and audio studies of the audience. The audio work is developed by professional musicians and theatre artists in collaboration with 40 citizens from Vesterbro and Copenhagen. During the last 6 months, a mixed group people, from all walks of life and in different life phases, have been engaged in the development and rehearsal of this sound work in 2 acts, based solely on the sounds and movements/actions of theatre audiences.

The first act is created from sound studies of theatre audiences in Copenhagen in Autumn, 2016 (unwrapping candy, shifting position on the chair, sighing, coughing) and the second act is based on the sounds made by audiences a Russian theatre in 1923 (shouting, singing, fighting, laughing).



This "work of sound" - a different and subtle concert - was presented during the theatre festival CPH Stage 2017 over four days both at The Lab Station and The Royal Theatre, Copenhagen. Here you will see the audience mirroring itself. The audience is given a voice and is finally able to hear its collective music. We investigate the audience identity of today and create space for the potential of breaking down conventions on what is acceptable conduct in the theatre.

The Voice of the Audience is part of the ongoing basic research conducted by the Lab Station, called "the collective power" – audience development from an artistic perspective. This work focusses on the ability of the audience to take in a theatre performance through different channels of perception, be it, physical, sensuous, intuitive, through sound and sight; how these influences may be expressed and manifest themselves; and how they may influence or change the artistic format of the theatre performance. The main curiosity driving these research labs is a deeper understanding of audience identities in the exchange between audience and a theatre piece, and the dialogue that takes place.

Apart from the Voice of the Audience, "The collective power" labs include "Totalteater for børn" (2013), inviting a children's audience to physically enter a theatre piece, as well as future projects, exploring themes "The common subconscious" and "From consumption to an economy of exchange" - development of an 'economy of exchange' between stage and audience.

The Lab Station is a workshop for professionals in the performing arts disciplines, residing in an old cinema from the 1920's.

Read more about the Lab Station at

www.forsogsstationen.dk

and about the many projects in Caravan Next across Europe at

www.caravannext.eu

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