



THEATRE  
EUROPEAN  
ENGAGEMENT  
NETWORK

[www.teentheatre.network.eu](http://www.teentheatre.network.eu)



# TEEN AMBASSADORS ACROSS EUROPE

Co-funded by the  
Creative Europe Programme  
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## A Teacher's Diary from the Trip to Belgium *Hasselt 2020*



DIALOGUE  
THE COMMUNITY  
PERFORMANCE NETWORK



"la Caixa" Foundation

SCENEKUNSTBRUKET  
The Norwegian Network for Performing Arts  
for Young Audiences



# Theatre European Engagement Network

- Considers and debates different European cultural experiences (focused on Theatre).
- Committed to bringing Teenagers to, and involving them in, Drama & Theatre experiences.
- Aims develop Teenagers' critical thinking and to encourage them to think analytically.
- Aims to enhance Teenagers' creativity and imagination.



# TEEN Project Participants

- Coordinator: *SEGNU New Generations* (Italy)
- Cultuurcentrum Hasselt (Belgium)
- Dialogue – The Community Performance Network (United Kingdom)
- "la Caixa" Foundation (Spain)
- Scenekunstbruk (Norway)
- Teatercentrum in Denmark



# The Event We Attended

- 23<sup>rd</sup> Edition of Krokusfestival.
- Krokusfestival is a festival of Theatre, Performances, Music and Dance for Children, Teenagers and Young Adults.
- The festival invites Creative Professionals & Artists to share their different points of views.
- The aim of the 'TEEN Ambassadors Across Europe' project is to create a space to reflect upon and exchange experiences in order to ensure the engagement of Teenagers in Theatre, through Co-Programming Workshops, Pre-Show and Post-Show Workshops.





# The First Performance

- The TAG groups from all over Europe came together and watched two plays.
- The first performance: *Panic at a lot of other places besides de disco* by Jade Derudder (trailer available to watch on [YouTube](#)).
- This performance involved a mixture of music, video, dance and drama to convey the relationship between a mother who suffers a mental illness and her daughter.
- We then joined a post-show discussion with the actress. The actress and the participants of the project talked about the creative process and the elements involved.

# The Second Performance

- The second play, *WIThWIT de Tijdtemmer*, was about a personal trip to find the meaning of life.
- This play offered different visual elements: music, shadows, toys etc. It focused on a man's relationship and his capacity to rebuild his life from a near death experience. Playing with toys and listening to music are ways he travels to incredible places where he starts to feel more like himself again.



# TEEN Project Tools

- Three tools were used after all the TAGs had watched the performances.
- Post-Show Discussion - Exchanging ideas, asking questions, and gaining insights into the Theatre.
- Co-Programming Workshop - Developing a method of Teenagers talking about programming Theatre together with Creative Professionals & Artists.
- TEEN Kitchen Table Meeting - Sitting around a table, sharing food, while Teenagers lead a reflective discussion on matters relating to Theatre and this project.

# More About the Co-Programming Workshop

- This tool brings together Teenagers with Creative Professionals & Artists to develop ideas and methods of together choosing a production to be programmed.
- It involves everyone asking lots of questions about the two plays that they have seen. Which elements were significant? Which of the two plays was more touching? Why? What are the most important aspects that lead you to choose one play over the other?
- Mixed Groups: The workshop allowed Creative Professionals & Artists, Teenagers and Teachers to talk together. It ends with everyone voting via a mobile app to rate the performances. In this workshop, the winner was the *Jade Derudder* production.



# **More About the TEEN Kitchen Table Meeting**

- Sitting around a table laden with croissants, chocolate biscuits and cookies, the Teenagers led a discussion on a chosen topic.
- A group of Teachers, as well as Creative Professionals & Artists, sit around them in a second circle, listening and participating if invited.
- The main questions that came out in the discussion (from the productions we saw) were about the role of Theatre in our society and in schools.
- The TEEN Kitchen Table Meetings involved an exchange of different points of view and a sharing of new ideas and creativity. The tool really helps to place the focus on the Teenagers' thoughts.

# Personal Reflections on the Festival

*Some thoughts I had during the festival...*

- The best way to get feedback on a production is to talk about the feelings and emotions that the performance created.
- To recognise oneself in a show, or in some aspects of it, is very important.
- Originality is very significant – especially originality in mixing together different performance elements, like music, video, movement, and drama.
- Be honest, do not pretend, be yourself.

# Tools to Experiment With

*Some tools that would be useful to explore and experiment with more...*

- Post-Show Discussion with the Creative Professionals & Artists.
- Co-programming using the 'IAN' tool.
- TEEN Kitchen Table Meeting led by the Teenagers.
- "Blind Date Theatre": proposing a "Drama-Date" - you don't know which play you are going to see until the last minute.
- Working on soft skills related to the Theatre.

# Thinking About Teachers & Schools

- The attitude of the school should be to enhance the Performing Arts in the classroom.
- What is the role of the teacher in general?
- Does he/she take part in the Drama project?
- Is he/she active?
- Which activities could the teacher suggest to encourage Teenagers to engage in Theatre?



# Thank You!



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