



Platform European
Theatre Academies



UNIVERSITÄT
MOZARTEUM
SALZBURG

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:

Poor/Rich Europe. **Experiences of Social Inequality** A documentary theatre project

Projectleaders: Volker Lösch / Christoph Lepschy

Poor/Rich Europe

The territory of the European Union is considered to be one of the most wealthy regions worldwide. But recent statistics and political developments reveal an obviously growing gap between the general increase of capital and the individual circumstances of living. The distribution of common wealth simply reaches less and less members of society. Urban environments are becoming more and more segregated according to the lines of social divisions, the social and economic background of the family still determines the possibilities for individual development, in short: the principle of equal opportunities is an illusion.

Precarious working conditions, poor salaries, increasing rents and dropping pensions foster a feeling of insecurity and being left behind. One out of seven Europeans is in danger of falling into poverty. The creeping division between poor and rich can be considered to be one of the main problems and dangers for the social peace within European democracies.

The documentary theatre project “Poor/Rich Europe” therefore aims to investigate these social frictions, tensions and divisions in the everyday life experience of the participating theatre students and their local environment. A close and self-reflective look is needed that focuses on the inequalities in the texture of the European societies. How is property distributed? Who holds the means for political and social participation? For whom is the accessibility of common goods like culture and education guaranteed and who is beyond its reach? And further more: How does the social divide structure the everyday lives in Europe? What does it mean to be poor or wealthy on a daily basis, how do people live, eat and work according to their economic status? How do they deal with their possessions and the notion of ownership in the framework of differing histories and experiences in Europe’s East & West, North & South?

The PLETA project “Poor/Rich Europe” tackles these questions in three steps. As a general *kick off* the public conference “How to work in the future, Europe?” from June 22nd – 23rd in Salzburg will establish the discursive ground for the following intensive working period. The workshop, that directly follows the conference, will bring the participating students from the collaborating theatre academies together to share and develop their individual research and experiences under the supervision of the German director Volker Lösch. In September the results of the workshop will be transferred into four weeks of intensive rehearsals leading to a common documentary-theatre performance in Salzburg.

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How to participate?

The task for the participating students is to conduct a field research (individually or in teams) in their closest proximity, their social context and urban environment, in the cities and places where they are living and studying. They should start from their personal context, be it family, friends, acquaintances, neighbourhood, fellow students or others, possibly related to significant socially segregated districts of the cities. The aim is to collect informations and impressions from the point of view of specific personal experiences, be it in a context of “poorness” or “richness”. Different sources can be used, be it urban planning administration or others, by walking the city, talking to people and conducting interviews.

What are the related experiences and stories within your family? How does the situation of caretaker migrants, leaving or coming to your country for working reasons, look like? Which living conditions does the industry 4.0 produce for crowd workers, deliveroo suppliers and call centre agents in your cities? What about those, who are living from the social support system in your country? How did your urban environment or living place change? How does all this affect your live? Those and various other questions may accompany your individual research.

A first presentation of the results will take place in the frame of the workshop. In the workshop period the material will be further discussed and explored by performative means. One approach to the text material will be the work with speech choirs. At the same time participants will build groups and develop the material in several individual projects, which will eventually become part of the performance. Correspondingly outlines of a dramaturgical framework will be developed, presumably with reference to relevant sociological, economic and philosophical texts. During the 4-week-rehearsal period in September / October a common theatre performance will be realized under the direction of Volker Lösch. Differing European experiences will be confronted and gathered at the same time. Many voices and languages will appear within one evening. It will be an attempt to look for a common European ground within a community of upcoming young theatre artists.

Volker Lösch

Volker Lösch is one of Germany's most renowned directors and has realized more than 80 productions at numerous municipal and state theatres, among others in Basel, Bern, Bonn, Berlin, Bremen, Dresden, Düsseldorf, Essen, Freiburg, Graz, Hamburg, Leipzig, Montevideo, Mannheim, Salzburg, Stuttgart, Weimar, Wien und Zürich. Repeatedly he worked with ensembles consisting of actors together with people from different social groups. Often he uses speech choir in his works and has developed specific forms of choral theatre. From 2005 until 2013, Lösch has been a director in residence and member of the artistic direction at the state theatre Stuttgart. 2006 he was nominated for the German theatre price “Faust”. 2009 he was invited to the “Berliner Theatertreffen”. 2013 he received the Lessing-Prize of the province of Saxony. A part from his theatre works Lösch is teaching at theatre schools in Germany and abroad.



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Application

Students (BA, MA, Diploma level) of theatre and performance studies (mainly acting, performance, but possible as well for directing, dramaturgy and others) are welcome to apply. The idea for the field research and project should be outlined in a letter of motivation (1 page), it can be done individually or by a group of students and should be sent until the **may 23th** to christoph.lepschy@moz.ac.at and Frank_Max.MUELLER@moz.ac.at. A selection of 20 participants will be made from the submitted applications. If you have any questions, don't hesitate contact us.

The project covers accommodation costs for the selected participants, as well as production costs. Travel costs shall be covered by the participating academies.

Schedule

June 21st - arrival

June 22nd – 23rd - conference: **“How to work in the future, Europe?”**, open to the public

June 25th - 30th - preparation Workshop “Poor/Rich Europe” with Volker Lösch

July 1st - departure

September 23rd - arrival

September 24th – October 20th - rehearsal period “Poor / Rich Europe” with Volker Lösch

October 19th 2018 - premiere

October 20th 2018 - second performance

October 21st - departure

November 7th -12th 2018 - performances at Thalia-Theater Hamburg

Conference, workshop and the rehearsal period take place at Universität Mozarteum, Thomas Bernhard Institut, Paris Lodron Strasse 9, 5020 Salzburg, Austria.