

TRACING ROADS ACROSS

a project of

WORKCENTER OF JERZY GROTOWSKI AND THOMAS RICHARDS

Thomas Richards, Artistic Director

Mario Biagini, Associate Director

Tracing Roads Across outlines a vision that houses the ongoing creative development of the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards throughout the next three years. The project – whose duration spans from April 2003 to April 2006 – is supported by the “Culture 2000” Programme of the European Union, and is made possible by a network of cultural operators from six different countries. **Crossroads in Istanbul**, a Focal Point of **Tracing Roads Across**, takes place in Istanbul, Turkey from July 11 to August 31, 2003.

Focal Point: Crossroads in Istanbul

Istanbul, Turkey: Aya Irini and Tarih Vakfy Tarihi Darphane Binalary

July 11 – August 31, 2003

Crossroads in Istanbul is one of the three Focal Point activities of **Tracing Roads Across**. A Focal Point takes place each year throughout the three years of the project. A Focal Point is an extended event in which the selected country of a given year, either Turkey, Tunisia, or Greece, will host the Workcenter and its open public conferences, projections of films, performances, demonstrations of opuses and exchanges-in-work with theatre groups.

Crossroads in Istanbul is realized with the collaboration of the Republic of Turkey, Ministry of Culture and Tourism General Directorate of State Theaters (General Director, K. Lemi Bilgin), the Republic of Turkey, Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Tarih Vakfı Tarihi Darphane Binaları.

During **Crossroads in Istanbul**, the **Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards** will be present in Istanbul with all branches of its ongoing research:

Art as vehicle: at work on an alternative potentiality of performing arts

“We can see the performing arts as a chain with numerous links, where at one extremity one finds art as presentation (theatre in the strict sense), and at the other extremity, art as vehicle. It’s something very ancient, rather forgotten. For the persons doing, the doers, the performative opus is a kind of vehicle for the work on oneself, in the sense that, as in certain old traditions, the attention for art goes together with the approach of the interiority of the human being.”

- **Action**

Jul 18, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30 and Aug 2, 4, 2003, Aya Irini, Topkapy Sarayy, 1. Avlu, Sultanahmet, Istanbul

During **Crossroads in Istanbul** professionals, specialists of theatre and theatre lovers will be invited to witness **Action**, a creative opus in the domain of “art as vehicle”. From 1994, Thomas Richards directs **Action**, an opus which he created and on which he carries on a continuous work. **Action** structures, in a material linked to performing arts, the work on oneself of the doers. The opus is composed of lines of actions elaborated in detail, constructed with and around ancient vibratory songs.

The Workcenter team doing **Action** is: Thomas Richards, Mario Biagini, Marie De Clerck, Souphiène Amiar, Jørn Riegels Wimpel, Francesc Torrent Gironella.

- **The Twin: an Action in creation**

Aya Irini, Jul 27 and August 1, 3, 4, 2003, Aya Irini, Topkapy Sarayy, 1. Avlu, Sultanahmet, Istanbul

The Workcenter team has begun to develop a new opus in the domain of “art as vehicle”, **The Twin: an Action in creation**. This new opus is being developed in the form of a “Work-in-creation”. For the first time in the Workcenter history an opus is being elaborated, in specific periods of the opus’ creation, in the proximity with different groups of witnesses. During

Crossroads in Istanbul interested individuals will be invited to witness work on this emerging opus.

The Workcenter team involved in *The Twin: an Action in creation* is: Souphiène Amiar, Cécile Berthe, Mario Biagini, Marie De Clerck, Francesc Torrent Gironella, Geneviève Miella Lavigne, Elisa Poggelli, Johanna Porkola, Thomas Richards, Pei Hwee Tan, Jørn Riegels Wimpel.

Places are limited for both works: all those interested to be invited should contact:

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Project *The Bridge: Developing Theatre Arts*

- ***One breath left – Dies Iræ***

Jul 24, 25, 26, 27, 30 and Aug 1, 2, 3, 2003, 21.00hr, Aya Irini, Topkapy Sarayy, 1. Avlu, Sultanahmet, Istanbul

Since May 1998, the Workcenter is developing a new branch in its research, a branch that is evolving and maturing next to the research on “art as vehicle”, Project *The Bridge: Developing Theatre Arts*. Therein, a bridge is being sculpted in the material of performing arts, which stretches from the world of the theatre to the investigations on “art as vehicle”. What is appearing in Project *The Bridge* is neither theatre in the strict sense, nor “art as vehicle”. Rather, a performance/non-performance is emerging, *One breath left – Dies Iræ*, directed by Mario Biagini and Thomas Richards.

A woman lies in her agony bed: only one more breath left. Who is there, close? And if it was me in my death agony? With only one breath left, with no strength – will I remember? In a flash, from memories and desires, images reappear, visions glitter: childhood dreams and fears, people I met, the search for knowledge, hunger for joy, my nightmares... Will it be just the leftovers of gone-by life, emerging again for a second, or an unexplored chance – too late, an instant of recognition, too lately glimpsed? What will I do with that last instant?

The Workcenter team involved in *One Breath Left – Dies Iræ* is: Gey Pin Ang, Mario Biagini, Pei Hwee Tan, Souphiène Amiar, Cécile Berthe, Francesc Torrent Gironella, Geneviève Miella Lavigne, Elisa Poggelli, Johanna Porkola, Jørn Riegels Wimpel.

One Breath Left – Dies Iræ is open to an audience, for reservation contact:

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Open Conference – Aug 5, 2003, 20.00hr, Tarih Vakfy Tarihi Darphane Binalary, Topkapy Sarayy, 1. Avlu, Sultanahmet, Istanbul

Thomas Richards and Mario Biagini will hold an open conference on the researches conducted at the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards within the frame of **Tracing Roads Across**.

Presentation of documentary films – Aug 29, 2003, 20.30hr, Tarih Vakfy Tarihi Darphane Binalary, Topkapy Sarayy, 1. Avlu, Sultanahmet, Istanbul

- **“Art as Vehicle” (1989)**
- **“A film documentation of ACTION” (2000)**

“Art as Vehicle” is a film documentation of *Downstairs Action*, the creative opus at the Workcenter in the domain of “art as vehicle” from 1988 to 1992. *Downstairs Action* was filmed at the Workcenter in 1989 by Mercedes Gregory.

“A film documentation of ACTION” was shot at the Workcenter in 2000 by “deux temps trois mouvements a.s.b.l.” (Belgium) under the leadership of Thomas Richards (production by: Atelier Cinéma de Normandie – A.C.C.A.A.N. and Centre Dramatique National de Normandie). *Action* is a present creative opus at the Workcenter in the domain of “art as vehicle”.

After the projections, there will be an open dialogue with the audience. The projections are open to the public and free of charge.

During **Crossroads in Istanbul**, aside from its public events, the Workcenter will hold exchanges-in-work with several Turkish theatre groups. The Workcenter will also lead the first **“Yearly Triangle”**: a meeting and confrontation in work, taking place each year of the project during the year’s “Focal

Point”, in which the Workcenter team will meet three theatre groups at the same time; one from Turkey, one from Tunisia and one from Greece. The three groups will stay the same during the three years, allowing thus a substantial confrontation on the development of the artistic and creative line of each group. The ensemble from Turkey will be especially formed for this activity by the Turkish National Theatre.

Tracing Roads Across, as well as directly concerning the Workcenter’s practical research, periodically focuses the artistic team’s attention towards a vast number of young theatre groups, performance artists and students, and also gives the team the opportunity to address topics related to creative analysis with theatre experts and scholars. The project creates the circumstances in which the works and creative processes of young artists and scholars can be analyzed from the point of view of performance craft. A three-year traveling cultural dialogue is being fostered between chosen theatre groups, organizations and cultural operators from eleven nations. The participating individual artists, theatre groups and intellectuals delve at different levels and in different stages into the practical aspects of the overall project. **Tracing Roads Across** as well creates the opportunity for non-professionals and theatre-lovers to come in contact with the artistic research and performative opuses of the **Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards**.

“Tracing Roads Across” – The Three Years’ Specific Activities:

Main Work: *Tradition and Performance*

A yearly five-month activity in Pontedera, Italy, where the Workcenter deepens its research and develops its performative structures. It includes several in-depth extended meetings and exchanges-in-work for invited theatre groups from participating countries, open public meetings and conferences, projections of film documentaries, performances and demonstrations of opuses. The “Main Work” is hosted by Fondazione Pontedera Teatro.

Frame Work: *Opening Doors*

A yearly residency of the Workcenter team at the Theatre des Augenblicks in Vienna, Austria, where the Workcenter continues its artistic work and research and realizes exchanges-in-work with invited theatre groups and individuals, open public meetings and conferences, seminars, projections of film documentaries, performances and demonstrations of opuses.

Focal Points:

- *Crossroads in Istanbul*, Turkey
- *Southern cradle*, Tunisia
- *Bridging through Mediterranean Sea*, Greece
- *Anatolian Gate*, Southern Turkey

Four extended activities where selected countries host the Workcenter and its open public conferences, projections of films, performances, demonstrations of opuses, seminars and exchanges-in-work with theatre groups. The artistic work takes place in spaces – mostly of ancient construction – of high quality in terms of their potential for human interaction during a performative event.

Eastern Meeting-place

An intensive, practical seminar, hosted by the Moscow Theatre “School of Dramatic Art” of Anatoli Vasiliev (Russia), which takes place at the end of each project’s year, where selected individuals from all the participating countries – practitioners and scholars – and Russian theatre groups, work together under the leadership of the Workcenter team.

Impulses

A yearly, month-long visit of the Workcenter team, happening either in France, Cyprus or Bulgaria, and which includes exchanges-in-work, seminars, open public conferences, projections of films, performances and demonstrations of opuses.

Interventions

Conferences and short seminars of a theoretical nature held throughout the three years of Tracing Roads Across in Italy, Poland, Bulgaria, Great Britain, Cyprus and France. Occasionally this activity will include open public performances, and demonstrations of opuses, and practical seminars.

International Symposia:

Performing Through – Tradition as Research at the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards

A two days Opening International Symposium in Vienna, Austria, with speakers from theatrical and anthropological fields of investigation, focusing on the relation between traditional and contemporary forms of art in the context of the Workcenter research.

Living Traces – Performing as a Shared Reality

A two days Closing International Symposium in Pontedera, Italy, with speakers and participants selected throughout the three-year project, focusing on the artistic phenomena developed within the project as they appeared in the different environments and places, cultures and societies.

For more information about **Tracing Roads Across** consult the project's web-site at: www.tracingroadsacross.net

or contact Gülsen Gürses - Project Organizer at:

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Tracing Roads Across is supported by the "Culture 2000" Programme of the European Union

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Project Organizer and co-ideation: Theater des Augenblicks – Vienna, Austria

Co-organizers:

Fondazione Pontedera Teatro – Pontedera, Italy

Centre Dramatique National de Normandie – Comédie de Caen – Caen, France

Public Agency for Culture, Tourism and Development of Heraklion City (Municipality of Heraklion) – Crete, Greece

University of Cyprus – Nicosia, Cyprus

"For a New Bulgarian University" Foundation – Sophia, Bulgaria

Main Partners:

Associazione Grotowski – Pontedera, Italy

The Moscow Theater "School of Dramatic Art" of Anatoli Vasiliev – Russia

Turkish National Theatre – Istanbul-Ankara, Turkey

Théâtre National Tunisien– Tunis, Tunisia

Kent University – Canterbury, Great Britain

IMEC – Institut mémoires de l'édition contemporaine – Paris-Caen, France

A.C.C.A.A.N. – L'Atelier Cinéma de Normandie – Caen, France

The Centre for Studies on Jerzy Grotowski's Work and of the Cultural and Theatrical Research – Wroclaw, Poland

IMEC – Institut mémoires de l'édition contemporaine – Paris-Caen, France

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