

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. Gülsen Gürses, Artistic Director of **Theater des Augenblicks** in Austria, is project-organizer. Standing out among the co-organizers is **Fondazione Pontedera Teatro**, its director Roberto Bacci and co-director Carla Pollastrelli, whose invitation to Jerzy Grotowski led to the founding of the Workcenter in 1986.

May 22 – July 8, 2003, Vienna:

Frame Work: *Opening Doors I*

Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards will be present in Vienna at Theater des Augenblicks with all branches of its ongoing research.

Tracing Roads Across has been designed to support the practical inner research of the Workcenter team. Within the three years of the project the Workcenter will develop its research and deepen its existing performative structures, both in the field of “art as vehicle” and in the frame of Project *The Bridge: Developing Performing Arts*.

With **Opening Doors I**, the Workcenter will also host the visits of theater groups and individuals from Vienna. The participating theatre groups will have exchanges-in-work with the Workcenter team. Viennese and UK theatre students will be invited as participants in seminar activities. The young scholars will have the opportunity to come in contact with the developing creative investigations carried on by the Workcenter. Other participants in **Opening Doors I** will take part in the open activities.

June 27, 2003, Theater des Augenblicks,

Edelhofgasse 10, 1180, Vienna:

Projections of documentary films on the Workcenter’s research

“Art as Vehicle” (1989)

“A film documentation of ACTION” (2000)

The film projections will begin at 20.00hr

“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 the present creative opus at the Workcenter in the domain of “art as vehicle”.

The projections are open to the public and free of charge.

June 28 and 29, 2003, Theater des Augenblicks,

Edelhofgasse 10, 1180 Vienna:

International Symposium: “Performing Through – Tradition as Research at the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards”

This official launching of **Tracing Roads Across** will take place in Theater des Augenblicks.

The Symposium will begin each day at 11 am.

The International Symposium, which will be translated in different languages, will guest Speakers from Italy, France, UK, Austria, Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Poland, Russia, Tunisia and Turkey. These theatre scholars, practitioners, critics and theatre experts will analyze the relation between traditional and contemporary, innovative forms of art in the context of the Workcenter research, and

debate the impulse into the future embodied in the Project **Tracing Roads Across**.

Among the Speakers: Roberto Bacci – *Fondazione Pontedera Teatro (Italy)*; Carla Pollastrelli – *Fondazione Pontedera Teatro (Italy)*; Eric Lacascade – *Centre Dramatique National de Normandie – Comédie de Caen (France)*; Vazkressia Vicharova – *“For a New Bulgarian University” Foundation (Bulgaria)*; a Representative from DEPTAI – *Municipality of Heraklion (Greece)*; Prof. Michalis Pieris – *University of Cyprus (Cyprus)*; Anatoli Vasiliev – *Moscow Theater “School of Dramatic Art” (Russia)*; Prof. Lemi Bilgin – *Turkish National Theatre (Turkey)*; Prof. Piergiorgio Giacché – *University of Perugia (Italy)*; Prof. Antonio Attisani – *University of Venice (Italy)*; Prof. Paul Allain – *Kent University (Great Britain)*; Prof. Marco De Marinis – *University of Bologna, Italy*; Albert Dichy – *IMEC, Institut Mémoires de l’Édition Contemporaine (France)*; Prof. Jean-Pierre Triffaux – *University of Nice (France)*; Prof. Wolfgang Greisenegger – *University of Vienna (Austria)*; Prof. Ulf Birbaumer – *University of Vienna (Austria)*; Dr. Gabriele Pfeiffer – *University of Vienna (Austria)*; Prof. Aysin Candan – *Yedi Tepe University (Turkey)*; Vanessa PolSELLI – *University of Rome “La Sapienza” (Italy)*; Ali Ihsan Kaleci – *Theater Director (France)*; Antonis Diamantis – *Omma Theatre (Greece)*. Thomas Richards and Mario Biagini of the Workcenter will be the dialogue partners within the roundtable conversations.

Tracing Roads Across, as well as directly concerning the Workcenter’s practical research, will periodically focus the artistic team’s attention towards a vast number of young theatre groups, performance artists and students, and also give the team the opportunity to address topics related to creative analysis with theatre experts and scholars. The project will also create 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 cultural dialogue will be fostered between chosen theatre groups, organizations and cultural operators from eleven nations. The participating individual artists, theatre groups and intellectuals will delve at different levels and in different stages into the practical aspects of the overall project. **Tracing Roads Across** will as well create 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.

During the first year of **Tracing Roads Across**, the Workcenter will be active in Italy, Austria, Turkey, Bulgaria, Poland and Russia.

The Workcenter team is: Thomas Richards (USA), Mario Biagini (Italy), Souphière Amiar (Algeria), Gey Pin Ang (Singapore), Cécile Berthe (Belgium), Marie De Clerck (Belgium), Francesc Torrent Gironella (Spain), Geneviève Miella Lavigne (Canada), Elisa Poggelli (Italy), Johanna Porkola (Finland), Pei Hwee Tan (Singapore), Jørn Riegels Wimpel (Norway).

“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, 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 international 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.

With the support of the **”Culture 2000”** Programme of the European Union



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 – Ministère de la Jeunesse et des Loisirs – 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

For more detailed information about the activities taking place during **Opening Doors I** or about “Tracing Roads Across” contact Gülsen Gürses - Project Organizer at:

Theater des Augenblicks

10 Edelhofgasse, 1180 Wien, Austria

Phone:+43 1 479 68 87. Fax:+43 1 479 68 86.

Email: kunstverein.theater.augenblicks@chello.at.

WORKCENTER OF JERZY GROTOWSKI AND THOMAS RICHARDS

22 Via Manzoni, 56025 – Pontedera, Italy. Fax: +39 0587 213631. Email: workcenter@pontederateatro.it