



EUROPEAN THEATRE AND FILM INSTITUTE

Registration number BE0 681.859.421

529 Chaussée de Wavre 1040 Etterbeek Belgium

“Briser le Mur!” /”Breek de muur!”

The project is created and conducted by European Theatre and Film Institute, composed by artists and researchers of theatre, film, and visual arts.

We called this project BRISER LE MUR! because its main task is to break the wall between the Dutch Speaking, Francophone and Germanophone communities in Belgium. We find it a very important tool for dialogue.

We believe that the multicultural aspect of Belgium is a huge and unique wealth. Very few countries in the world can boast of having three state languages, three cultures. This is certainly our wealth!

But it is also a challenge!

The research aspects of the project is based on the philosophical ideas of Mikhail Bakhtin (1895-1975) who believed that culture approaches the understanding of itself only in the dialogue, looking at itself through the eyes of another culture and thus overcoming its one-sidedness and narrow-mindedness. There are no isolated cultures - they all live and develop only in a dialogue with other cultures. Alien (it can be replaced by another) culture only in the eyes of another culture reveals itself fuller and deeper (but not in its entirety, because other cultures will come that will see and understand even more). One meaning reveals its depths, meeting and touching another alien meaning: a kind of dialogue that overcomes the isolation and one-sidedness of these meanings begins between these cultures ... With such a dialectical dialogical encounter of two cultures, they do not merge and do not mix, each preserves its unity and open integrity, but they are mutually enriched.



As experts in conducting theatre workshops in different countries, for different language groups (our experts have worked in almost all the countries of Europe, Asia and in the United States), we will try to break down the linguistic barrier between Flemish, French and German speaking actors in Belgium.

The first workshop in 2017 was carried out with participation of VUB, ULB Universities, Erasmus University College Brussels (EhB), ARTS² École Supérieure des Arts Mons with 30 actors.

The second workshop in 2018 was carried out with the participation of The Koninklijk Conservatorium Brussel and Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles, VUB, ULB Universities with 40 actors.

The third workshop in 2019 embraced IAD – Institut des arts de diffusion from Louvain-la-Neuve, The Koninklijk Conservatorium Brussel, ULB, Moscow Art Theatre school, Drama Studio London and local theatre makers from Brussels. 100 participants!



After the three years of experiment we have created sustainable cooperation with 6 universities and are ready to go to step 2 of the project - creation of theatre production where actors of four (or more) language groups will perform in the Multilingual Multicultural Multidisciplinary performance.

In the course of the workshop a video-documentary material was filmed.



At the end of each of the three days the actors-students were invited to talk about their experiences.



Such an action can become a regular, annual event, which would involve a large mass of actors/students and the experiment should show how a theatre play during a short period of time can help bring people together and give them the opportunity to understand each other.

This experiment can be exported by ETFI in other multilingual countries, such as Canada (French-English), Cyprus (Greek, Turkish, English), Luxembourg (French, German, Luxembourgish), Switzerland (French, German, Italian).

EUROPEAN THEATRE AND FILM INSTITUTE ©