

Centre for Theatre Laboratory

R E P O R T

(March 2005)

Aarhus University and Odin Teatret agreed in December 2002 to establish an international centre for theatre research, *Centre for Theatre Laboratory Studies* (CTLS) with its home base at Odin Teatret in Holstebro. The CTLS is organised as a collaboration between Afdeling for Dramaturgi at Aarhus Universitet and Odin Teatret. The director of the centre is Associate professor Janne Risum, Aarhus University, Afdeling for Dramaturgi.

CTLS was officially inaugurated in September 2004 with the participation of Aarhus University Rector Niels Christian Sidenius, previous Rector Henning Lehmann, both from Aarhus University, Holstebro's Mayor, the secretary for Culture from Ringkjøbing Amt, as well as the Italian Cultural Attaché in Denmark.

CTLS will create the framework for research into the cultural, artistic and social significance of theatre as a theatre laboratory on an international level. It should have the function both of preservation and communicating culture through an international theatre archive based on Odin Teatret's extensive collections. One of CTLS' main tasks is to transfer this material to a digital archive so that it may form the framework for a dynamic milieu for research involving a variety of activities. (Agreement, Appendix I.)

In 2004 Odin Teatret began the construction of the building to house the CTLS (275 m²). It will contain the archive, office and digital laboratory as well as space and facilities for visiting researcher's work and accommodation. The venue will be ready for use Spring 2005.

STAFF

From September 2004 Francesca Romana Rietti has been employed as research assistant by Aarhus University to work part time at the CTLS with the archive's catalogues.

From October 2004 Rina Skeel from Odin Teatret has been working part time as project coordinator.

From November 2004 Emanuela Bauco has been employed by Odin Teatret to work part time at the CTLS to organise the archive's materials.

From March 2005 Grethe Lorenzen has been employed by Odin Teatret/CTLS as librarian to work with the criteria for the data base with ISO and metadata standards.

ARCHIVE

Main tasks from September 2004 to March 2005:

-To check and sort the amount and quality of the material documented during Odin Teatret's 40 years.

AUDIO (400 tapes)

VIDEO (200 videos about Odin Teatret or their projects; 260 videos about Western and Asian theatre; hundreds of hours of unpublished film and video recordings)

PHOTOS (20.000)

BOOKS (Odin Teatret's 1.000 volumes and E.Barba's library of 9.000 volumes)

MAGAZINES (from more than 30 countries; more than 100 different theatre magazines; around 1.000 copies)

NEWS CLIPS (10.000-15.000) emeroteca: newspaper library

ARTICLES (1.000 articles by Eugenio Barba published in several languages – 1.200 published articles concerning Odin Teatret or arrangements by them)

POSTERS AND PROGRAMMES (1.300 published by Odin Teatret or by organisers in other countries)

LETTERS AND ADMINISTRATION (more than 1.000 book files with contracts, activity descriptions, participants, agreements, personal letters – e.g. correspondence between Dario Fo and Eugenio Barba in preparation for a demonstration during a seminar; Ariane Mnouchine, Richard Schechner, etc.- performance's manuscripts, actor's work dairies, etc., etc.)

PROPS

COSTUMES

-To select and choose the most important collections to be included, as a first step, in a data base and be digitalized, according to the historical importance and the frailty of the material and to make rough catalogues of these collections or adapt the old internal catalogues to our needs. (We are still working on this.)

-To select the systems to be used (data base, web system, etc). Choose the criteria, thesaurus and interconnections.

-To seek advice in relation to copyrights and decide which material will be available on line to the public, which is to be used only by visiting researchers in Holstebro, and which cannot be made available for various reasons.

Plan for 2005/2006

-The staff will move into the CTLS building during Spring 2005. Furnishing the building and purchasing the most essential equipment. Creating the computer network, permissions, etc.

-It has been decided to start a pilot project with PLONE and the hope is to build up the system and be on line with CTLS' own web side with the first catalogues and information in October 2005. After that there will continue to input the data and digitalize items. (This work can take years before all items are in digital format with extensive information.)

-Digitalisation of selected items: Priority should go to important and old videos, selected photos and Eugenio Barba's writings.

ACTIVITIES

Main activities from September 2004 to March 2005

-Visitors and short-term researchers: Prof. Lluís Masgrau (Institut del Teatre, Barcelona), Prof. Nicola Savarese (Roma III University), Prof. Nikolai Pesochinsky (St. Petersburg Arts Academy), Prof. Franco Perelli (Torino University), Prof. Peter Hulton (Exeter Digital Archives, Exeter University, UK), film director Lisa Ginzburg (Italy), theatre director Karolina Spaic (Holland), film director Janica Draisma (Holland), Jaroslav Fret and Grzegorz Ziolkowsky (directors of The Centre for Study of Jerzy Grotowski's Work, Poland). Students from Bologna University, Torino University and Aarhus University (Per Beck Jensen).

-Organisation of 3 International symposia in October 2004,

1. TRADITION AND INNOVATION IN CHINESE OPERA, international seminar with lectures, demonstrations and performances by Wu Hsing-Kuo's Contemporary Legend Theatre from Taiwan and lectures by Prof. Janne Risum, Prof. Exe Christoffersen and Prof. Alette Scavenius (at Aarhus University, 30.9.2004). (115 Danish and international participants.)

2. WHY A THEATRE LABORATORY? Risks and Anomalies in Europe 1898-1999, an international symposium with lectures by scholars and university professors from Cuba, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, USA, and demonstrations by Théâtre du Mouvement from France, Gennadi Bogdanov from Russia and Odin Teatret from Denmark (at Aarhus University, 4-6.10.2004).

It has been discussed the category "theatre laboratory". What do we mean by this? Which groups or institutions may be described thus? Do objective criteria exist for defining a "laboratorial" identity? What does the work of Stanislavski and Decroux, Meyerhold and Peter Brook, Grotowski and Ariane Mnouchkine, Copeau and Odin Teatret have in common? These questions have been taken up by the following specialists in this field: Georges Banu, Eugenio Barba, Raquel Carrió, Exe Christoffersen, Marco De Marinis, Leszek Kolankiewicz, Patrice Pavis, Zbigniew Osinski, Béatrice Picon-Vallin, Janne Risum, Franco Ruffini, Nicola Savarese, Richard Schechner, Mirella Schino and Ferdinando Taviani. A living legacy has been presented through demonstrations by Gennadi Bogdanov, Théâtre du Mouvement and Odin Teatret. (125 Danish and international participants.)

3. THE THEATRE THAT DANCES, an international symposium with lectures, demonstrations and performances by The Song of the Goat from Poland, Théâtre du Mouvement (France), Augusto Omolú (Brazil), Granhøj Dans and Odin Teatret (Denmark), (at Gran Teater for Dans, Aarhus, 7-10.10.2004).

This international symposium, dealt with the aspects of a theatre whose sensorial and dynamic characteristics have become a genre for itself. There have been practical sessions, lectures, working demonstrations and performances by the following theatres: The Song of the Goat, Poland; Théâtre du Mouvement, Augusto Omolú, Granhøj Dans and Odin Teatret. (90 Danish and international participants.)

-Contact with other theatre archives to exchange expertise and plan common projects. ("Living Performance Archive" meeting in Wroclaw, February 2005.)

-Hospitality for 2 long term researchers: Ana Woolf, Bachelor of Arts (Argentina) and Dr. Lilicherie Mc Gregor (New Zealand) who have been researching from the beginning of CTLS (2003).

Plan from March 2005 and 2006

-Collaboration with other archives and universities, in particular with The Centre for Studies of Jerzy Grotowski's Archives, Exeter Digital Archives, Nicola Savarese (Roma III University) and Franco Perelli (Torino University), to present a project for digitalization to the EU commission in 2007.

-To search and apply for economical and professional support from Danish and international institutions.

-To make available two "Praktikplads" for students at Institut for Dramaturgi (from September 2005).

-To organise the second meeting about the "Living Performance Archive" in Holstebro in October 2005.

-A seminar at Aarhus University with Institut for Dramaturgy and Odin Teatret in connection with Odin Teatret's tour to Aarhus.

-A seminar between teachers from Aarhus University, Copenhagen University and Odin Teatret at Copenhagen University in connection with Odin Teatret's tour organised by Det Kongelige Teater in January/February 2006.

-A seminar/workshop for University students and theatre practitioners. (Prof. Nicola Savarese, from Roma III University will give a week's seminar about theatre on the web, already in September 2005 or June 2006 if CTLS has the physical IT conditions.)

-International collaboration on special dvd editions based on CTLS archive's film/video and new material on specific theatre topics (training, street theatre, "barter", theatre anthropology, etc.). Film director Claudio Coloberti from Torino as well as Prof. Peter Hulton from Exeter University are preparing different proposals.

-Diffusion to the media and divulgation of the CTLS, not only to the general public, but specifically to the Danish academic sector.

Rina Skeel
Holstebro, March 2005

./. "Minimum annual budget", "Appendix I" and "Appendix II".