

Digital Futures Dis-Connected Space: Embodied Performing Practices in a Digital/ Virtual Era

Workshop Leaders

Davide Giovanzana (FI)

Samuli Nordberg, Carlos Portilla (FI)

Date

8–11 June 2023

Location

Foyer of the DISK theatre, Theatre Faculty of
Academy of the Performing Arts, Karlova 223/26,
11000 Prague 1 – Old Town

Target Participants

Theatre makers: theatre students (acting, directing, dramaturgy) with strong practice orientation.



Workshop Description

We approach the notion of RARE as the expression of an event described by the French philosopher Alain Badiou. Events are manifestations in nature and life that generate moments of astonishment. Usually, theatre projects aim to re-display these moments of astonishment (or traces of truth to re-employ Badiou's terminology or, as we use in our workshop: thresholds). Modern technology, mainly digital technology, can offer new means to immerse the body (of the performers and the audience) within these thresholds (events/Rare moments).

The workshop aims to reconsider the usual relationship towards technology. Instead of considering technological devices as external artefacts used by the performers (or theatre-makers), the workshop aims to investigate the possibility that the performer is a prosthesis of the technology. Technology is not simply a tool; it shapes/defines the users. In addition, we would like to approach the workshop as a collective research laboratory where the participants can bring in their own artistic research/interests/concerns. While "building" a hybrid space (meaning bringing together digital and analogue presence and also bringing together virtual space and physical stage), participants will creatively explore the multidimensional, temporal, and social phenomenon related to these types of spaces and performances. Moreover, they will consider to what extent digital devices permit the performer (or theatre maker) to be an active agent in constructing a sense of togetherness or to deal with the lack of it. The participants will examine the hybrid space and its temporal peculiarities in relation to artistic activities. Through this examination, they will forge their own tools to test hybrid spaces and pursue further artistic aims in problematising embodied interaction and togetherness.

Our interest aims to explore three lines of thought. One is linked to the practical work that Samuli Nordberg developed by using digital platforms such as Zoom or Teams meetings as tools for displacing bodies in space. The second line follows Davide Giovanzana's examination of the philosophical discussion about "acknowledging" or "recognising" another person applied to the performative context. The third line considers the notion of presence and touch in a multimedia setting. These three lines of exploration are entangled through the digital device. The outcome is to examine whether digital devices, rather than mere platforms for information exchange, could become tools for exploring and performing thresholds. With the participants, we are interested in exploring how digital platform approach and renovate theatre practices, such as set design, performing, dramaturgy, and spectators' imagination.

About the Workshop Leader

Davide Giovanzana is an Italian-Swiss theatre director, educator and researcher. His background is in physical theatre and Lecoq tradition. In his doctoral dissertation, he explored the dichotomic effect of play within the play, which reinforces and disrupts the "theatrical-reality" opposition on stage. His post-doc research explored the representation of violence and trauma on stage. His research focuses on the digital revolution's impact on acting and dramaturgy.

Samuli Nordberg is a Finnish choreographer, dancer, director, actor and educator. He holds the MA degree from Arts University Helsinki in the field of choreography. He is a founding member of Tsuumi Dancetheatre and he is working with his doctoral studies on Shared Authorship – The Physical Perspective at Tampere University.



Participation in this workshop requires

Curiosity, basic understanding of the media on personal digital devices, some experience in acting or performing.

Workshop Fee

2 400 CZK / 100 EUR (approx.)

