

Documentation of the

## TRIANGLE MEETING PART ONE

### LABORMANIFEST #12

march 25 to 28, 2021 an exchange between the professional dance scenes of the Tri-border region  
Strasbourg, Basel and Freiburg

The second part will take place at ROXY Birsfelden from the 9th to the 12th of September 2021.

PART ONE dealt in 4 zoom-sessions of two hours with 4 different themes - hard facts, interviews, visions and manifesto.

The event was organised by Zina Vanessen, Jasminka Stenz and Johanna Heusser, a production by Tanzbüro Basel in collaboration with Tanznetz Freiburg and Roxy Birsfelden, with the support of Pole Sud.

For PART ONE there were 37 registered people in total.

This documentation is written by Livia Kern and focuses the zoom-session on hard facts and visions:

### HARD FACTS with JOHANNA HEUSSER

The sessions goal: Painting a landscape of all the scenes together. All people present themselves to each other after that they respond to 3 questions that are raised by Johanna Heusser:

***How many professional dance makers do you count in your city and which are the venues that are important for the scene?\****

#### Basel

50 active dance makers as the free scene.

There is no contemporary dance education in Basel. There is a classical ballet school as well as a study program for movement and music.

Free scene stages are Vorstadt Theater, Roxy Birsfelden, Kaserne Basel and Volksbühne Basel as well as also smaller platforms like the *dare and share* at Chronos Tanzstudio.

#### Strasbourg

Dance artists: maybe around 50

There is the dance city school, the center choreographic, private schools and the University of Strasbourg.

To use the studios of Pole Sud, you'll have to be based in Strasbourg and be in touch with Pole Sud. For Fabrique de théâtre you need an association to have access to its studios.

## Freiburg

There are also around 50 active dance makers in the free scene.

There is the TIP Dance School as well as another dance school.

Stages are:

Theater Freiburg for international Company's | [https://www.theater.freiburg.de/de\\_DE/home](https://www.theater.freiburg.de/de_DE/home)

E-Werk Freiburg for Contemporary Art & Dance – not a production house but a guest play place |

<http://ewerk-freiburg.de/>

Other venues are Südufer, Marienbad Theater and smaller Off-spaces as well as Dance Festivals.

Further important is Tanznetz | <https://www.tanznetz-freiburg.de/>

## ***What kind of platforms are there or other organisation within the scene?\****

### Strasbourg

Pole Sud organised a meeting for performing artists. It was a collective program (programe commun), of which the aim was to bring all artists in Strasbourg together, for exchanging and offering open spaces.

(During Triangle Meeting there was a discussion whether this format really reached all artist – some thought so, others experienced that one had to be known to Pole Sud already to belong to this group – which isn't the case for every artist in Strasbourg.)

France is generally organised differently than Germany and Switzerland. Something like a free scene doesn't exist in the manner it exists in Switzerland or Germany. There are no private stages, everything is public. There is no self organisation of the free scene, no meeting point and no private funding.

Further there is the National théâtre, which offers a space for working. One other big venue is the TJP - théâtre jeune public.

### Basel

Platforms:

There is an open stage platform called *dare and share* organised by Tanzbüro Basel.

At *Mixed Pickles* at Roxy Birsfelden artists can show short pieces.

4 times a year there is the „Stammtisch“ meeting of the freelance scene.

Another important medium is the Newsletter of Tanzbüro Basel, where information about what and where things are happening is shared

For the free scene network there is a WhatsApp group, which is very important for the informal communication and organisation.

### Freiburg

Tanznetz Freiburg's newsletter is also an important medium for sharing Information.

At Tanzwuchs emerging artist are able to apply for two weeks residencies and show a 10 minutes piece followed by an open talk.

There is also the Artist Development program, where performing artists can get 1: 1 mentoring for a research project.

Labormanifest is important for meeting other artist, for networking and research.

Professional Training is an at training format, which is equally important for meeting and networking.

At Sprechstunde für Freischaffende questions can be raised about organisational issues.

\*Answers are based on the contributions given during the talk, which means the picture of each

scene remains fragmentary and information might be subjective, given without engagement.

*If the Triangle meeting would be a creature – how would it look like? What are your visions and expectations for it?*

R ... is wishing for connection with people that are very close. Why travelling far, if there are so many artists and possibilities close by?

P ... is dreaming of a space, where we meet and eat together, dance together. It should be warm, evening till night or Sunday morning, breakfast - something like that.

D ... is spinning this dream further so it will be Sunday morning breakfast, because we danced all Saturday night after having had a 12 minutes showing of each one before Saturday evening.

M ... is dreaming of a stage in nature and wanting to share moments, when we are insecure or having fears in the life of an artist to build a safe ground for each other.

J ... is wanting residencies and showing possibilities in all three cities, which are financed by the Oberrheinkonferenz.

A ... is wishing for funding for dance pieces from all three cities – pieces that then can be showing in all three cities.

S ... is raising the question of the mobility in between the cities and different countries, with their own regulations – wishing for touring possibilities that are possible.

V ... said if Triangle would be a person he would like to meet him, share, discuss and co-operate with him.

A ... is thinking of connecting not only artists, but also audiences – so there might be a shuttle bus between the cities.

A ... is describing a artistic bridge between the different cities – on this bridge there will be a train running in which people are eating and dancing together.

A ... Is wishing a long life to the Triangle creature and a lot of projects.

## **VISIONS moderated by Monica Gillette**

Monica Gillette moderated this talk with experience in developing several formats for international digital exchange, shaping and facilitating new collaboration and artistic practices for the digital space.

People collected in an open document notes describing what they are missing, wishing and needing for in their current practise on different levels – as individuals, as part of the dance sector or as part of a specific region or also as part of an institution. Notes, drawings and pictures were collected and structured collectively.

The final table of notes you can find on the last page. Out of this collection 3 smaller groups were formed: Structural Collaboration – Artistic exchange - Critical Discourse. Each group discussed their topic more closely and presented their findings in the plenum:

## Structural collaboration

- There should be one person, who is coordinating the exchange between the cities, to whom one can talk to, someone who knows all artist, regulations and institutions.
- There should be a format run by the institutions, that artist can apply for. A format that you are able to travel in between the three countries.
- There is the idea of an artist market, where artist from our three regions can present themselves to the production houses in a pitch presentation.
- Collaborations should be more easily be able to realise – meaning practicalities like working contacts that are hard at the moment should be simplified that there is one system working for all three cities.
- There should be a knowledge flow between institutions and artist on an eye to eye level. Understand the topics that artists working with as well as productions houses looking for.
- There was the wish for more spaces like the format dare and share in Basel – that are not only focussed on a production that can be sold, not serving capitalistic structures.

## Artistic exchange

- There was the wish for rooms, which offer possibilities to meet in an informal, unconventional way – not only to dance but also to discuss.
  - In Freiburg there is the Südufer which is offering this. Strasbourg is missing such a place.
- There was the idea of recreating public talks after a show. The idea was to change these kind of settings into smaller groups, so that one performer meets a maximum of five people of the public at once – to have a deeper talk.
- There was the note that we should always think of 3 parts: audience – artist – institutions. Not forgetting about the audience, especially in these times, when we haven't seen them for so long – how can exchange still be possible?

## Critical discourse

- Workshop for critical discourse

Such a workshop would be prepared in advance and also participants should have investigated in the topic before. A specialist and artists could meet and go deeper, leading a discourse within that workshop on a specific topic.

- Pop-Up Salon

In a pop-up salon artist and non-artist could meet and discuss in an interdisciplinary, non-hierarchical way: just launching a conversation. Still there is the need of someone who kicks off and gathers people.

- Bringing dance «outside»

Based on the experience that theoretical discourse is missing for example in Freiburg, there was the wish to exchange also between dance and other theoretical fields.

# exchange of artistic working methods

connection & exchange and potential - collaboration with fine artists (artists of different disciplines)

Me: Mentorship, looking at my/our work on a META level, sharing different perspectives



practice ---> inspired mainly by working with others in one space, meeting physical! pratique physique ---> inspiré principalement par le travail avec d'autres dans un espace, la rencontre physique!

artistic career as a sustainable practise

Platform(s) of exchange with other artists - from different fields (as dance, theatre, circus) // plateforme(s) d'échange avec d'autres artistes - de différents domaines (comme la danse, le théâtre, le cirque)

regular exchange meetings between artists

Performances in a row in all cities - rotation des spectacles

understanding different realities of the scenes and get inspired by them

meeting in September as a starting point getting to know each other and our practices

a space for informal meeting and dancing for Strasbourg but also maybe for the 3 regions together? like a jam or creative space for talk and move

Simplification du système entre les 3 pays

think tank, lobbywork (resources, rehearsal spaces, funding structure)

we miss visibility. We miss a person or organization who can help with connections to Theaters or Institutions for collaboration in the Triangle Region.

avoir un soir de work in progress de le 3 ville dans un theatre avec feedback des publique differente. peut être aussi de different dramaturges

Establishing a constructiv save space where a dance/choreographer community can exchange define and grow together

Residency programm(s) in the oberrhein region (DE/CH/FR) // Programme(s) de résidence dans la région d'oberrhein (DE/CH/FR)

touring possibilities in the triangle. showing pieces in all three cities. - maybe idea for funding structure of oberrheinkonferenz

structural connection - connect to networks - partners - coproduction & residency venues



institutional level that include regional artists; building a network that is independent from the institutions // la co-opération au niveau institutionnel qui inclut les artistes régionaux; construire un réseau

simplify regulations for performers in europe

FREIBURG: Produktionsleiter\*in en // des professionnelles qui s'occupent de la production

production manager

someone who really understands the different systems/structures in F/D/CH

inspiration from the Swiss program dance et dramaturgie something similar maybe in 3 cities?

a dramaturgie

spaces/times of shared discussions; inter-disciplinary approaches; addressing the lack of critical discourse (in Strasbourg) // espaces/temps de discussions partagées; manque de discours critique (à

tanznetz: deepening topic (feminism, kulturelle aneignung, diversity...)



Discussion about how to think/understand dance. What can be different roles of dance in Society?

critical discourse

Sharings about how to speak artistically about feminism, cultural appropriation, diversity...

critical discussion about dance as a social practice

more discourse / exchange on neurodiversity in dance and integration of it in the official structures

Collaboration

Co Working Space @ Freiburg

network: meet a lot of people

building trust, low level meetingpoints (coffee dates/bar-evening)

informal regular meeting place for chatting and moving - espace informel pour recroitre et improviser regulairement