

RESILIENT REVOLT

Call for Artists, Theatre of the Oppressed (TO)* practitioners and Activists!



Fridays for Future, Extinction rebellion, Ende Gelände in Germany and so many other recent movements show that resistance against climate injustice is increasing all over Europe. The climate justice movement is one of the most vibrant ones in Europe right now. This does make sense, because the exploitation of our planet's resources through global capitalist action is one of the most imminent political threats of our time, because our current mode of living is basically unsustainable and self-destructing.

In RESILIENT REVOLT we want to contribute as activist theatre makers to these movements. From 27th July till 4th August we will meet in Gornij Grad, Slovenia, in the frame of the Non-Festival for Theatre of the Oppressed to create a forum theatre piece** on climate change issues and use this as a starting point for creating a *forum theatre movement on climate justice all over Europe*.

We have to work towards a more sustainable society in so many ways: Facing the ecological crisis, to us, also means facing a patriarchal and racist capitalist system. Using climate change as an anchor point, our project wants to highlight the specific oppressions that are caused by it on racialized, gendered and queer subjects. Also, climate change as an issue is highlighting the importance of transgenerational justice, so we want to emphasise and encourage the perspective of young people, specifically, whose future is at stake in the current situation.

As we are meeting as practitioners from all over Europe and hopefully beyond, we want to enable ourselves a global perspective on our respective local fights, because Climate Justice is a global issue. We believe that facing this global issue is only possible if we look at it from a global angle and then reconnect this local angle towards our local fights.

RESILIENT REVOLT has three main objectives:

1) Artistic: We will create a Forum Theatre piece** on climate change within a week. We openly invite all the arts, ritual work and all kinds of other methodologies that might inspire our artistic process!

2) Multiplication: Our goal is to create a forum theatre piece that can be transferred to all sorts of local contexts and thus is performed after our residency in all our home countries. However, we will take some time during our rehearsal process to actively think about, what else effective multiplication of forum theatre and its political goals (in this case climate justice) could mean.

3) Horizontal Action: As we are creating a group of experienced activist and artists and change makers, we want to use all our energies and resources most effectively. Part of this is to think about how this can be done. If you are a director, please bring your directing skills, if you are an activist, bring your political expertise, etc. We will invite all participants to engage with the project prior to the residency so they can think about what they will be able to contribute.

These do not only apply to our residency in Slovenia but all the process that hopefully follows our first meeting. We believe that putting these three pillars together can infuse really effective and sustainable social change.

Who?

Initiating team: Barbara Polajnar (KUD Transformator, NON festival, Maribor, Slovenia, <http://kudtransformator.com/>), George Wielgus (Reboot the Roots, UK www.reboottheroots.org.uk and ULEX project, Catalunya <http://ulexproject.org/>), Joschka Köck (TdU Wien, Vienna, Austria, <http://tdu-wien.at/>, PhD student in TO and the ecologic crisis)

We are looking for Theatre of the Oppressed practitioners, (theatre) artists and Climate change/ environmental movement activists with diverse backgrounds who want to continue the work done at the residency after the festival in some way!

We actively want to create a group with people facing intersectional oppressions. Please also apply if you don't fit into any of these categories because we don't like categories. :)

Place limit: 20 participants!

Where? Gornji Grad, Slovenia, lovely Slovenian hills and greens!

When? 27th July to 4th August, of which 27th to 31st July is residency time and from 31st on 7th International Non-festival of the Theatre of the Oppressed.

Language: Working language will be English with the possibilities of translating and creating a multi-language piece! Theatre is our universal language.

Cost?

Food for our residency will cost 50€/person for five days, the Non-festival will be 50€ for participation at the workshops, food* and sleeping for the rest of the time. Together, 100 €. The price includes sleeping in the Non-festival camp. You need your own tent, sleeping bag and lots of blankets because nights are cold.

You have to cover your own transport cost (please avoid hard using an airplane to come!).

*All meals are vegan.

Solidarity economy: Pay more if you can so you make participation possible for others!

Parts of our team are doing fundraising activities prior to the meeting in Slovenia to enable more people to come that wouldn't otherwise. See what your material contribution towards the success of this project could look like beyond money! We are seeking to organize this as an activistic event which includes the use of a solidarity economy. Also, let's together fuel as many resources as possible into facing climate injustice!

Send us your response to this call (*Short Bio, motivations to participate, what you contribute to our process*) until 15.06.2019 to transformator.toslo@gmail.com

Place limit: 20 participants!

More information on the NON-festival (in Slovene): <http://kudtransformator.com/ne-festival-2019/>

*About Theatre of the Oppressed

Theatre of the Oppressed is a range of techniques, games and exercises, using embodied narrative to support the empowerment and liberation of individuals and their communities. The approach was developed by Augusto Boal in South America, and has since been used all over the world in the building of community, to dynamize social engagement, and to support individuals to realise their creative potential for personal and social transformation.

"Theatre is a form of knowledge; it should and can also be a means of transforming society. Theatre can help us build our future, rather than just waiting for it." – Augusto Boal, Games For Actors & Non-Actors

In essence, it utilises theatre in order to generate solutions to real problems, create dialogue where before there was only monologue, and ultimately "humanise humanity" by enabling people to develop the skills and faculties to liberate themselves and others. It creates space for a rehearsal for life. It is a way of analysing the power dynamics of our society and our personal relationships, purporting that personal problems are social problems.

** Forum Theatre is one of the forms of TO that uses a short theatre piece to confront an audience with a problem. The audience then is asked to engage with this problem by coming up on stage and propose other actions for the different characters.

Forum Theatre has been successfully used all over the world to mobilise for social movements and create strategies for social movements. Also, within movements, it can sharpen our sense for our issues.

One of the content wise questions in this project will be to define the crises (and therefore the choices and strategies) that are implied in climate change. Who are the Oppressed in such a piece? Who are the characters of the play? What is at stake dealing with climate change?

Picture credit: „The Village Peeple Revolt“, Poppy @flickr.com