



## EUROPEAN PERFORMING ARTS AND TRANSMEDIA LAB PILOT SCHEME

Centre Chorégraphique National de Franche-Comté à Belfort  
Le Granit, scène nationale de Belfort – MA scène nationale-Pays de Montbéliard

### A SHARED LABORATORY

With the aim of fostering an open and innovative project **dedicated to contemporary stage writing**, the *Centre Chorégraphique National de Franche-Comté à Belfort*, *MA scène nationale - Pays de Montbéliard* and *Le Granit, scène nationale de Belfort* are creating a shared laboratory. **An interdisciplinary space of confrontation, experimentation, exploration and production with a European dimension**, constructed around artists, scientists, engineers, programmers, production and research professionals and articulating **live performance and transmedia**.

This symbolically strong association is reinforced by the establishment of a shared company (*Société en Participation, SEP*) guided by the principles of cooperation and pooling resources. Developing complementary missions of creation, production and programming, the three partners have a wealth of experience supporting artists backed up by suitable facilities.

### CONTEMPORARY STAGE WRITING AND TRANSMEDIA GOING BEYOND ARTISTIC AND CREATIVE BORDERS?

For over 10 years, transmedia has been primarily developed in creative industries such as cinema, television, internet and gaming. A transmedia experiment applied to live performance could be made up of different stage/media combinations (web, interactive interfaces, parallel fictions, narrative world(s), etc.) **in order to achieve artistic and social innovation**.

This practice, which is rarely used in the performing arts, is involved in issues relating to **contemporary stage writing**: temporal, narrative or conceptual extensions, audience involvement (co-actor, co-creator, participant, etc.), spillover into the public space; interpenetration of reality and the stage, and so on.

### THE AIRE URBAINE: AN AREA WITH MANY ADVANTAGES

**This laboratory is embedded in a territory, the Aire Urbaine**, that encompasses the cities of Montbéliard, Belfort and Héricourt in a common urban and suburban fabric. The *Aire Urbaine* is part of a strong and cross-border regional dynamic: it is an area with multiple influences flowing through it, a zone of exchange between the Rhine, the Rhone and nearby Switzerland. It is only natural therefore **that the issue of the circulation of people and works that the Aire Urbaine embraces in its proposed actions runs through this metropolitan vision**. While it is intended that the laboratory should extend beyond national borders, in the middle of Europe and the world, it will remain founded on the strengths of this territory as a common link and reference point.

### 3 STRUCTURES, 3 COMPLEMENTARY IDENTITIES

#### ***The CCNFCB – artistic director Joanne Leighton***

The *Centre Chorégraphique National de Franche-Comté à Belfort* (CCNFCB) was founded in 1990 and since May 2010 has been headed by the Belgian choreographer of Australian origin, Joanne Leighton.

#### **Core activities:**

- **Creation and dissemination** of Joanne Leighton's pieces: *Les Veilleurs*, *Exquisite Corpse*, *Midori*, *Les Modulables*, *Made in ...Série*. In her creative work, Joanne Leighton is particularly interested in the issue of copy/original and seeks specifically to question forms of audience participation.
- **Research and production residence**, in particular in the context of the "*accueil/studio*" programme (studio residency). For this purpose, the CCNFCB provides high quality facilities including two rehearsal spaces in the form of an equipped production room and a studio.
- **Decentralised residences** in Franche-Comté in liaison with multiple partners such as the *Fraternelle* in Saint-Claude, the *Saline Royale* in Arc-et-Senans, *Frac Franche-Comté*, and the studio of the IDA company in Arbecy.
- **Development of choreographic culture and training**. The CCNFCB is a place of resources and expertise proposing and initiating artistic and cultural education activities. This specific policy has led to the development of emblematic projects such as the production-workshop *Danse en images*. In addition, the CCNFCB takes an active part in the *Research Hub for Artistic and Cultural Dance Education* of the French Education Authority for the Besançon area and the University of Franche-Comté's Art, Dance, Performance diploma course, in conjunction with the ISBA.
- **Cross-border and European development**. The CCNFCB is leading a project to structure exchanges in the field of dance between Switzerland and France – *éviDanse* – developed progressively since 2001. Currently, the CCNFCB and its partners are working on a new interdisciplinary project with other partners in Switzerland and Franche-Comté centred on questions of the body, movement, displacement and performance in relation to territorial exchange and identity, in which dance will play a key role.

#### ***Le Granit, scène nationale de Belfort – artistic director Thierry Vautherot***

Le *Granit* has always built long-term relationships with directors; these include Jean-Luc Lagarce, Ezequiel Garcia Romeu, Ludovic Lagarde, Benoit Lambert and Jean-Lambert Wild who initiated durable collaborations with researchers and engineers from Belfort/Montbéliard University of Technology (UTBM) for his productions.

#### **Core activities:**

- **Production and support** for multidisciplinary contemporary creation (Collaborations for 2013/2014 season include: Jacques Vincey/Sirens company, Anne Montfort/ Day-for-night company, Julien Travaillé/Serial Theatre company)
- **Programming** of multidisciplinary artistic proposals with a core focus on theatre.
- **La Galerie**, a venue programming exhibitions and activities centred on visual arts integrated to the theatre (diversity of mediums and forms, installations, interventions, performances, itineraries, publications, etc.)
- **Artistic and cultural education** (school-based projects, adult writing workshops, children's drama workshops, provision of educational packs, etc.)

After Belgium last season, *Le Granit* continued its **European policy** by proposing a focus on Swiss production for the 2013 /2014 season, thus asserting the cross-border dimension of its territorial location. *Le Granit* is also preparing a European-scale project structured around authors and the translation of dramatic works for an artistic project drawing on different viewpoints.

### **MA scène nationale – Pays de Montbéliard – artistic director Yannick Marzin**

A multi-site structure rooted in a fragmented territory (The greater area of Montbéliard is made up of 29 smaller towns or villages), MA came about from the merger of a “scène nationale” [national theatre], a theatre for young audiences (L’Arche), a large municipal theatre (the 1100-seat MALS in Sochaux,) and a structure dedicated to the creation and production of digital arts (Ars Numerica). It has inherited a dense and complex history oriented towards artistic innovation: the *Centre d’Action Culturelle* headed by Yves Deschamps in the 80s (which gave rise to the first version of the scène nationale), the *Centre International de Création Vidéo* directed by Pierre Bongiovanni in the 90s (which became Ars Numerica before being attached to the scène nationale).

#### **Core activities:**

- **Multidisciplinary programming** combining discoveries, large formats, young audiences, symphonic music (through a new partnership with the Franche-Comté Victor Hugo Orchestra).
- **Creation of festivals** featuring participatory actions, shows, creative projects, on-site productions of works: Ars Numerica festival, Green Days festival.
- **Creative education through participatory projects** run with artists and partners (schools, community associations) for local residents, young people, etc.: *Campus Culture*, *Académie du Mobile*, *Toi & MA*.
- **Production support for artistic proposals using new technologies** through its digital stage, a facility associating a full stage and post-production studios
- **Structuring of European networks** centred on artistic education

In addition, since last season Le Granit and MA have launched a shared Europe-oriented event with a double programme: *Europe en scènes* is a joint approach that is open to different approaches and aesthetics.

### **CONSTITUTION OF EUROPEAN PERFORMING ARTS AND TRANSMEDIA LAB**

Since May 2013, a newly hired project manager has been developing the various core goals designated by the three structures:

- Survey of structures operating in cultural, creative, academic and artistic education sectors as well as artists and events in the territory of Franche-Comté, in the cross-border area and on a European level.
- Organisation of meetings
- Establishment of a research laboratory to experiment with and develop the relevance of the project in the field of contemporary stage writing and transmedia.

This first, pilot phase of research and experimentation will take the form of an international call for projects for artistic teams to create a draft project. This time will also be an opportunity to deepen and consolidate the orientations taken in the development of the future European Performing Arts and Transmedia Lab by taking account of the recommendations of the hosted artists.

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