

# Chaos and Method

## Teaching Contemporary Performance within Institutions

*At Prague Academy of Performing Arts (KALD department), Czech Republic*

*May 28 and 29, 2018*

After the inspiring Teaching to Transgress symposium about teaching devised theatre, Prague Theatre Academy (DAMU) Department of Alternative and Puppet Theatre (KALD) will host another gathering of pedagogues from the field.

Contemporary performance field is eclectic. It includes many genres and many aesthetics. New dramaturgical system (system of unfolding) is created for almost each new show. Each artist has their own aesthetical, ethical and working methods. So, how do we teach these artists? ...if we want them to stay inspired, not replicating our own work, and not being obedient to the systems (school system, theatre system but also the political system). How do we teach them discipline without disciplining them? And what are the contemporary performance disciplines today anyway? Do we teach directing? Stage design? Acting? In the time of collaborative, devised work?

If contemporary performance is about making alternative ways of thinking about things, alternative ways of looking and experiencing things... then that's a form of critical thinking that is crucial to society (especially today again). But how do we teach this creative, critical thinking, that is more about creating new territories of the unknown and unthinkable rather than confirming the existing? How do we help them get lost in a constructive ways? And is the 'constructive' way possible? How do we help them get oriented while disorienting them and deconstructing values, hierarchies and relationships that they have learned at school and at home? How does one teach grasping and letting go in the same time? How do we teach them multiplicity and specificity in the same time? In the times of excellence and efficiency: how do we provide the time/place to really think? (And theatre is a place of meditation first of all.)

This symposium is a gathering of pedagogues, artists and students where we share experiences about teaching the 'unthinkable': a place to sigh, collapse and think together. But it will also be a place of pragmatic mapping of the field: What are the existing, specific methodologies that we use in teaching contemporary performance? What are individual fields and disciplines thought at different schools? What is the proportion of theory and practice? How is the future 'career', possibility to build future connections, provided to students? How do we help them towards their own aesthetics? What is the form of the bachelor studies vs. master studies, what is the difference?

We invite you to propose practice-based presentations of concrete practices, methods, strategies, questions, problems and issues of teaching devised theatre. We are looking for short, 10-15 minutes presentations that will be a start for discussions.

The symposium is organized by the Department of Alternative and Puppet Theatre of DAMU that has since its establishing in 1952 achieved international recognition and has since its beginnings cultivated new approaches to theatre making. It is vitally connected to the distinguished tradition of Czech 'authorial' theatre and puppetry, yet integrates the newest theatrical trends in the areas of object theatre, media, improvisation and visual arts.

Conveners: MgA. Sodja Zupanc Lotker MgA et Ph.D - Course Leader of the MA in Directing Devised and Object Theatre at KALD DAMU and and MgA. Lukáš Jiříčka, Ph.D.

Please send 500 characters abstract and 500 characters bio to [sodja.zupanclotker@damu.cz](mailto:sodja.zupanclotker@damu.cz) before February 15th, 2018. You will be notified by March 1st, 2018