

A support scheme
for emerging creators of contemporary circus in Europe



Think Circus!

Conclusion

European Conference *Think Circus!*#2
La Villette, Paris ■ May 17-19, 2017

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I would like to thank all the speakers and especially Agathe Dumont for all these extremely inspiring moments we have just experienced. I gathered a few words that came back several times during our exchanges and the one that qualifies my state of mind right now is the word "inspiration".

All that has been said is going to sediment, to permeate us; we will take the time to digest, mix, reflect, re-debate. And, fed by what we received during this conference and what we heard, we will continue the CircusNext project. We talked about research, experimentation, creation, mobility, exchanges: we talk about creative residency for artists, we are generally the purveyors of these moments out of time, I fight for my part so that, we, too, cultural operators, organize time of inspiration for ourselves, such as the one we have just experienced.

CircusNext 2013-2017 is not quite finished since the European Season of Circus Arts continues until autumn with the diffusion of shows of laureates from all promotions everywhere in Europe and with the *Inédits de CircusNext* in Ile-de-France.

By the end of the year, we will also set up the CircusNext Odyssey site where you will be able to find the project documentation:

- CNAC videos of the selection weeks and presentations at the Théâtre de la Cité Internationale
- the video reports made by Delphine Maugars throughout the project, who followed some of the laureate authors during their creation process
- the pictures of the artists we accompanied
- and elements documenting the reflection carried out by the partners and, hopefully, if it is appropriate, traces of the two highlights that have been *Think Circus!* #1 and 2.

And now the question arises of the continuation of CircusNext: the adventure continues with new projects:

- the identification of emerging authors, always on criteria of singularity, creativity and excellence across Europe, with our current partners and with new partners from further countries,
- their support, not only in their process of artistic creation, but also in their structuring,
- and finally a reinforcement of both our European dimension and our territorial anchoring.

We have submitted two applications to the European Commission, which results we will have during the summer. It is an economic reality to depend on the European Union to carry out projects such as CircusNext, on such a large territory (Europe and beyond) and with such an ambition. However, even if one cannot speak of "lottery", obtaining European funds is still a competition: the size that will have CircusNext from 2018 on remains unknown for the moment.

Of course, like many French cultural operators, we also depend on the Ministry of Culture, and therefore on the directions that the new government will take. Here again, the nature of the support we will receive from the ministry, which is our largest French financier, will only be known in the coming months.

It is in any case with a very strong conviction that we defend our action and our values: CircusNext is a unique scheme, which evolves and seeks to improve constantly, in an asserted approach of public service, which is an interlocutor both for the authors and for the venues outside any commercial relation with one or the other.

Our links with artists and partners are strong and lasting, and we affirm our role as "scout" in the sense that we are leading the way, that we are trying to identify the new generation of writers, and that we offer these artists possible roads for their journey.

See you then, we hope as soon as next year, for the continuation of our adventures.

I want to thank you once again for your presence.

A huge thanks also to

- the speakers,
- JTCE small team (Maud, Chloé, Léa, Davi),
- the Villette teams who hosted this event with great professionalism and generosity
- the interpreters
- and of course, again, Agathe Dumont, without whom this conference would not have been so inspiring.

And to paraphrase a phrase that we have heard a lot in France in recent months: long live Europe and long live circus!

Thank you

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CircusNext

2013-2017

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