

# Is mediation a cultural rights practice?

Study day

06.28.2023

# Program

10 am

Introduction

10:15 am

*Dédale dans les droits culturels*

("Maze in Cultural Rights")

with Christelle Blouët, coordinator of the Réseau culture 21 network and Marthe Bouganim, project manager (France).

11:45 am

*Assemblée, pedagogy of sharing*

with Marcela Santander Corvalán, performer, choreographer and teacher, Bettina Blanc Penther, visual and choreographic artist, and Anaïs Garcia, artistic and cultural education officer at CN D (France)

12:30 pm

*Rural Touring Dance Initiative:*

Remedying geographical inequality in dance touring in the UK

with Christina Elliot, head of programming and production at The Place (UK)

1:15 pm

Lunch break

2:30 pm

*Dancing Around Race*, cultivating racial equity and absolute belonging

with Gerald Casel, professor and chair of the Dance Department at Mason Gross School of Arts, State University of New Jersey at Rutgers, founder of *Dancing Around Race* (USA)

3:15 pm

Approximations and collaborations for a *Common Body*

with Elisabete Paiva, artistic director of Materiais Diversos (Portugal)

4:30 pm

Practicing cultural rights: think tanks

6 pm

Convivial time

7 pm

Performances and screening

# Is mediation a cultural rights practice?

Cultural rights, as set out in the Fribourg Declaration of 2007, are at the foundation of mediation practices: taking multiple identities into account, valuing the knowledge of each individual, encouraging involvement, taking part in the education and training of citizens, etc. Through the sharing and debating of experiences in different European countries, the aim is to realize how mediation practices implement (or challenge) cultural rights, but also how such rights question and shift intentions and behavior from mediators or artists. What can dance particularly do in terms of cultural rights? And how do cultural rights specifically question dance?

# 10:15 am

## *Dédale dans les droits culturels* ("Maze in cultural rights")

This *Daedalus* game is a cooperative card game introducing the discovery of all cultural rights (identity, diversity, heritage, community, participation, cooperation, education and information). Through the multiple questions printed on the cards, it allows to go through all these notions and to discuss them. The educational kit, from which the game is derived, aims to support the appropriation and understanding of cultural rights and to promote their respect. It is the result of several months of experimentation with the 4th and 5th grade schoolchildren and teachers of two classes at the École du Béliet in Grigny, in France.

### **Christelle Blouët**

A graduate of a master's degree in cultural project management after 15 years of artistic direction, Christelle Blouët founded the Réseau Culture 21 network in 2009 and has been coordinating it ever since. Within this framework, she initiates and leads numerous territorial initiatives developing an interdisciplinary approach on culture in public policies, relying on participatory processes. Since 2012, she has been coordinating the Paideia program in France, which has enabled a vast network of players in many fields of public action to be trained in cultural rights.

### **The Réseau culture 21 network**

Created in 2009, Réseau culture 21 is an independent non-profit organization promoting diversity and cultural rights in all public policies, based on Agenda 21 for Culture and the Fribourg Declaration. The network helps local authorities to

further open the concept of culture in its broadest sense. It supports players of all fields in their suitability to this concept, and helps culture expression into a variety of projects carried by cultural, social or educational public policies, among others.

# 11:45 am

## *Assemblée*, pedagogy of sharing

*Assemblée* is a cultural mediation process created by the CN D that invites local residents to investigate the dances that run through them, and to dance and create together. Each person's gestures, movements, rhythms and stories are shared and then collectively transformed to create a new dance. The whole process of investigation and creation is supported by artists and mediators. *Assemblée* thus invites all city residents to share dance practices, inventing a new “living space” that enhances everyone’s choreographic heritage. Porosities, interactions and crossovers between dance movements allow active and plural communities to emerge.

### **Marcela Santander Corvalán**

Originally from Chile, Marcela Santander Corvalán trained in dance-theatre in Milan, then in contemporary dance at the CNDC in Angers, under the direction of Emmanuelle Huynh. As a performer, she worked with Dominique Brun, Faustin Linyekula, Julie Nioche, Ana Rita Teodoro, Volmir Cordeiro, Mylène Benoit and Mickaël Phelippeau. Since 2015, she has written several pieces that have been touring in Europe and abroad (including *Disparue*, a solo presented at CN D in 2018). She is currently an associate artist at La Manufacture, CDCN Nouvelle-Aquitaine Bordeaux La Rochelle.

### **Bettina Blanc Penther**

After graduating from École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs and Le Fresnoy - Studio National des arts contemporains, Bettina Blanc Penther

produced videos such as *Too Much Tenderness* and *I Am a Believer*. In parallel to her project for Le Fresnoy, she performed and collaborated with the choreographer Marcela Santander Corvalán. Together, they teach many dance workshops for all types of audiences. In 2021, with the artist Pauline Brun she created the company *No Small Mess* which carries her choreographic project *Secretly Trouble* about the feeling of shame.

### **Anaïs Garcia**

Anaïs Garcia has always been drawn to creation in all its forms. She first nurtured this interest through the practice of dance, theater and visual arts. Convinced that art is a vehicle for emancipation, she turned to cultural mediation to support projects for sharing and transmitting contemporary writing. She is currently in charge of artistic and cultural education at the CN D where she is developing dance mediation projects for schoolchildren and the general public, including the *Assemblée* process.

# 12:30 pm

## ***Rural Touring Dance Initiative:* Remediating geographical inequality in dance touring in the UK**

*Rural Touring Dance Initiative (RTDI)* is co-lead by Christina Elliot and Sonia Sabri (dancer and choreographer) alongside partners Highlights, National Rural Touring Forum and Take Art. Since its launch in 2015, *RTDI* has transformed UK rural dance touring, successfully increasing the quality and quantity of dance touring across the country, to make dance a vital and celebrated part of rural cultural life. Every year, *RTDI* has published a national menu of some of the best dance productions touring in the UK, and provided producing, financial and marketing support to enable them to visit village halls across the country.

### **Christina Elliot**

Christina Elliot is head of programming and producing at The Place. She oversees the programs for artists and audiences and has worked closely on the development of a new production and touring program. Prior to working at The Place, Christina Elliot was a producer at Fuel, a pioneering producing organisation based in London.

### **The Place**

The Place is London's creative powerhouse for dance development, which has been leading the way in dance training, creation and performance for over 50 years. The Place is a dance ecosystem unlike any other in the world, home to London Contemporary Dance School, an extensive theatre and artist development program, education projects, a range of classes and courses and a nationwide touring program.

2:30 pm

***Dancing Around Race*, cultivating racial equity and absolute belonging**

Through movement provocations and candid conversations on race and racism, participants will explore systems of power, social position, and how they exist within institutions of dance, education, performance, and production. They will examine their dance training, experience, and aesthetic values reflecting on the ancestral legacies they hold.

**Gerald Casel**

Gerald Casel is a dance artist, equity activator, and antiracist educator. His work provokes questions surrounding colonialism, whiteness and privilege, and the tensions between the invisible/perceived/obvious structures of power. Gerald Casel is professor and chair of dance at Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. A graduate of The Juilliard School with an MFA from UW-Milwaukee, he received a “Bessie” Award for sustained achievement. Casel founded *Dancing Around Race* in 2018.

3:15 pm

**Approximations and collaborations for a future *Common Body***

Since 2017, Materiais Diversos has been developing an ongoing collaboration with schools in Alcanena, an outlying city north of Lisbon, through in-class art workshops for pre-teens. In order to broaden the horizon of possibilities for these young people, Materiais Diversos offers them an experience that contributes to their self-esteem, sense of belonging and critical reflection. The workshops value, on the one hand, diversity as a heritage and a right and, on the other, dance as a means of research and expression. Concepts such as Anthropocene, transition, diversity and joy are explored with the aim of building a common heritage of experience and knowledge.

**Elisabete Paiva**

Since 2015, Elisabete Paiva has been artistic director of the Materiais Diversos, an independent organization working in the fields of contemporary dance and performing arts in Portugal. She teaches the discipline of "arts audience" at the Lisbon Theatre and Film School, and the Programming Strategies seminar at Forum Dança in Lisbon. She was head of the Education Department of A Oficina, a municipal organization in Guimarães and programmed the Education Department of Guimarães, 2012 European Capital of Culture.

## **CN D**

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