

Welcome!

Now raum4 has a newsletter, too!

Just before Christmas, a little thoughtful retrospection and a look at upcoming events. We would like to keep everybody informed, create more awareness for our work and also show off a little, where we deem it necessary. Please feel warmly invited to encourage, express wishes, and even criticism (in moderation).

Happy reading!

Best regards,

raum4

1. Retrospective 2010

2010 was a productive year for raum4. With a first international coproduction, the creation of a theater festival and a reminiscence of the initiating project of raum4, *Small Town Blues*, we set a lot in motion.

phoenix transatlantic – New plays from NRW and NYC



On April 29 and 30, and together with the festival *Voices of Change* (Theater Bielefeld), raum4 produced a festival with new plays from North Rhine-Westphalia and New York City for the "Office of the North Rhine-Westphalia Representative to the Federal Government". Henning Bochert und Christine Richter-Nilsson shared the artistic direction, the German plays were directed by raum4 member Ulrich Hüni as well as Regina Wenig. raum4 was able to commission plays by playwrights Anna Behringer, Charlotte Roos, Nuran David Calis and Thomas Melle and premiere these new works. In addition to that, five productions of new plays from NYC from the Bielefeld festival were presented.



Mehdi Moinzadeh, Toks Körner, Christian Schmidt in „Einer für alle, alle für keinen“ by Nuran David Calis.

phoenix transatlantic continued the collaboration of raum4 with the "Representative Office of

North Rhine-Westphalia to the Federal Government” after the first production *Werkschau Wuppertal* of 2008 (idea, concept, direction: Henning Bochert).

The most beautiful part of the evening was the performance of the ensemble of the play *Dies alles Herzchen wird einmal dir gehören* lead by Regina Wenig, because this production played with both space and actors in an exemplary and inspiring way. That is particularly notable as the *phoenix transatlantic* festival let itself be a bit caught up in the slightly sober atmosphere of the legislative venue as a conference center.

The single most characteristic element of raum4 projects, the creative exposure to the respective space, its history and design, was slightly neglected in *phoenix transatlantic* and its rather well-meaning accommodation to the *Europasaal* of the Representative Office – despite its wonderful merging of different actors and its various dramatizations, which were all well-worth seeing. Notwithstanding, the international concept and its transcending of borders while connecting the disparate was the most captivating element in this project.

In a new project in the same area in Berlin, we would like to focus on the confrontation with the location itself. More about that when plans have become more concrete.

SumSum² - eine grenzenlose Liebes- und Sprachverwirrung

The Russian-German collaboration between Theater Erlangen and St. Petersburg Teatr Pokoleniy (idea: Eberhard Köhler; concept: Eberhard Köhler and Henning Bochert) is funded by the Federal Cultural Foundation and designed to span three years. The first part, the production of *SumSum² - eine grenzenlose Liebes- und Sprachverwirrung* (“a borderless confusion of love and language”) premiered in Erlangen on June 24 and in St. Petersburg on July 8, 2010. Despite a heat wave and summer vacation, the twelve performances in St. Petersburg were completely sold out there; the Erlangen performances were shifted from October 2010 to April 2011.



Linda Förster, Elena Polyakova, Patrick Serena, Anastasia Toshcheva in *SumSum²*

“The conclusion one can make is that studying languages is always great, but the thing that is more important is the skill of understanding the other person (...). And that is what means more than grammar rules and rich vocabulary.” (Kim)

„The play is in two languages: Russian and German. However, you cease to notice this after ten minutes, so entrancing is this painfully banal story of young people in love.” (Brusovani)

A production report (for now in German) of the dramaturge Henning Bochert can be downloaded as a PDF from his website www.henningbochert.de. As a second part of the collaboration, a month-long mutual exchange of personnel is planned during the first half of 2011, and then the mutual exchange of productions in 2012.



Final ovations *SumSum²* in St. Petersburg with playwright Laura de Weck

SumSum² is the first project, in which raum4 participated, where a discussion surfaced about authorship, initiation, in short: the *intellectual property* of the project. For a brief period, the question arose, when a project may be called a project of raum4: does that depend on the financial input? The artistic, the conceptual? The number of members involved?

The dissension could be solved, yet this marks a new phase in the history of raum4. Projects become so valuable, that everybody would like to claim them. That is a good sign and speaks in favor of the projects. And it presents challenges for us, as we are „raum4 – **network** for artistically dealing with the everyday“ and interested in collaboration and community.

Small Town Blues at the play! Leipzig festival

We had an opportunity to present *Small Town Blues* once again in the series *Heimatforschung & Reminiszenz (Homeland Research & Reminiscence)*. In the garden of the *Centraltheater*, under the open summer skies.



Once again, we showed slides of home. And asked questions about them. Slides of what our guests, radio presenter Friederike Holzapfel and art history professor Frank Zöllner, called home. With humor and charm, our guests took us on a journey to Oyten, Bad Düben, and Leipzig. Questioned by the team of Jana Bauke and Ulrich Hüni, everyday discoveries were made of things often overlooked and light was shed on biographical details all too easily forgotten.



Our summary at raum4:

Small Town Blues at dusk on a mild summer night is highly recommendable. And calls for repetition. However... the attempt to bridge the places of origin of our guests with their current place of residence Leipzig was only partially successful. Better follow the rule: one guest – one place.

We express our thanks to the *play! LEIPZIG* festival for the invitation and to the *Centraltheater* for the support while we are still waiting for the press article by the Bild newspaper reporter who, interestingly enough, found her way to our slide show night.

fiskus2010

FISKUS2010



In October, raum4 participated in the piece [Fiskus2010](#) with an investment of €25 and thus became a participating artist in the project.

The project deals with the crucial aspect of the generation of a production. The focus is on the raising of funds. A cleverly calculated system concentrates on the cash flow. Everyone who gives is being documented. And in the end, there is a big, colorful, statistic cake made up of innumerable colorful pieces, because many supported the project with small sums. As valuable as the lovingly compiled documentation made each single donation, this cake won't allow for big jumps. Thus, *Fiskus2010* documents the difficult paths of art to its funding. And it's nice to look at, too.

With the [Porschismus Kunstpreis 2010](#) (Porschism Arts Award 2010) at the [essential existence gallery \(eeg\)](#) in Leipzig, the piece won the **Public's Choice Award** among all 124 submissions on August 14, 2010!

Further links:

<http://fiskus2010.twoday.net/> (this is where you can find the detailed concept, too)

<http://porschism.us/> (blog of the Leipzig artists collective "Porschismus")

<http://www.eexistence.de/> (homepage of the essential existence gallery, Leipzig)

2. Introducing the Supporting Member status

Long planned, now finally realized: raum4 is introducing the Supporting Member status. We very warmly welcome the first two honorable supporters of our work:

- Dr. Hanna Kuhlmann, Frankfurt am Main
- Dr. Elmar Engels, Berlin

3. New members

As announced on our website already, raum4 grew in size. We gained two members in the summer and thus extended the international reach of our organization:



Stefan Lange, born 1980, living in Bad Dübén near Leipzig, is involved in the landscape theater project (see below). He is a freelance business consultant and also president of the Bad Dübén soccer association. Furthermore, he has a seat in the Bad Dübén city council as well as in the County Assembly of North Saxony (as an informed citizen in the financial sector). He thus covers completely new areas.



Danila Korogodsky, born 1955, is professor for stage design at UC Long Beach, CA, USA, as well as Artistic Director of *Teatr Pokoleniy* (Theater of Generations), an independent theater ensemble in St. Petersburg, Russia. His long collaboration with Eberhard Köhler as well as the recent bilingual theater production *SumSum²* initiated by raum4 led him to a sustained commitment to raum4.

4. Upcoming projects

Landscape theater in Bad Düben

„In Bad Düben, there is a landscape museum. Now a landscape theater is supposed to join it. TV producer Henriette Lippold („Soko Leipzig“, ZDF), who spent her childhood and youth in the city, and Leipzig stage director and theater scientist Ulrich Hüni together with SPD city councilor Stefan Lange presented corresponding plans. (...)“

These are the first sentences of the LVZ article about our project presentation before the city council in Bad Düben. And this is how we describe the project:

We envision a landscape theater with participation of the Düben citizens. A story that incorporates incidents and history of the region and plays with the location where it will be happening. The spectators will follow the action from place to place until the finale at Düben castle. The individual stations are short distances of five to eight minutes by foot apart.

The main roles will be played by professional actors, while the team will, wherever possible, work with players from Düben. The local experts for life in Bad Düben and their play will lend authenticity to the project that can make it charming. The landscape itself will provide the set and allow for new perspectives onto the well-known. Buildings and areas will receive a brand new face to be newly discovered by the actors as well as the audience.

This is the last part of the LVZ article about our presentation:

„(...) The bridge over the Mulde, also part of the „stage“, would need to be temporarily closed, as well as a few streets. By December a decision about funding sources will most likely be reached, the play be written, and performers from the local population be found until December.“

And of course, we have to emphasize that only when the funding sources have been decided upon in a positive manner, will the project take flight. Even our new quarters at the *Alte Post* (Old Post Office) cannot belie that fact.

By the way: we would like to invite you for a *Day of Landscape Theater* to the *Alte Post* in Bad Düben on December 18, 2010. Details below.

Verirren – Annäherungen an einen Zustand

(*Getting Lost – Approaches to a State of Being*) We are also working on a project called „Verirren – Annäherungen an einen Zustand“. We are trying to approach this phenomenon inspired by Ulysses, without whose wanderings we would have missed a thing or two. When we are further along with the project, we will provide further information.

„Verirren – Annäherungen an einen Zustand“
with: Jörn Knebel, Ulrich Hüni and Kai Dorenkamp

An evening with music, in a theater near you in spring twentyeleven.

Other projects

are in the works, and we will keep you informed as they materialize.

5. Dates

2010: December 18, 10 am – 4 pm **Day of Landscape Theater**, Alte Post, Bad Düben

2011: April 13, 14, 15, 16, 8 pm **SumSum² - eine grenzenlose Liebes- und Sprachverwirrung**, at the *Garage* of [Theater Erlangen](#)

Thanks, Douglas Langworthy, for your help with the translation!