

The Co-operative for Creative Research "Krasnaya Shpana"

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Statement

We, the Co-operative for creative research "Krasnaya Shpana" (Markin, Shirokostup, Yakovenko), would like to take part in "Learning Play - A school of schools" by Impulse Theatre Festival 2016. The group we want to participate in is "PAF – Performing Arts Forum", our second choice is "Vierte Welt Kollaborationen".

We have chosen PAF because we are aware of Jan Ritsema's long lasting work on theater and pedagogy. We also share the principles outlined in PAF's statement: "PAF is for people who can motorize their own artistic production and knowledge production not only responding to the opportunities given by the institutional market" and "it is a platform for everyone who wants to expand possibilities and interests in his/her own working practice". Not to work under the conditions of "the market demand" and development of our own working practice are also the important principles for us. We are constantly looking for ways to get out of the obtrusive dictat of the dominant institutional structures and achieve the level of autonomy where we'd be able to independently develop our initiatives. We are greeting PAF's democratic and independent position.

We exist as a collective for a few years and have already participated in several projects in various countries. We are glad to work in collaborations and develop new ideas with new partners, as well as we have our own method of work based on our conventional topics to suggest.

We understand our participation in the program politically, that's why our most important reason to be in the festival is the possibility to get together as a group, as well as find new like-minded people, with whom we can stay in contact, to be a part of the political and international art community.

We started as a group in Russia, but because of the political conditions, the conflict in Ukraine and difficulties in the European visa policies we have a very few opportunities to run our projects further. The projects are educational and research based, with the aim to produce knowledge within the framework of the post-soviet situation.

We are one of the few currently existing russian-ukrainian artistic groups, therefore it is important that we continue working on our projects, being an example of international cooperation at the times when between our countries the actual and ideological war is going on. This festival can be a platform for us to be together, find new solutions, to collaborate with the others, when public space stays under the state dictatorial control in Russia. We want to show, that peaceful cooperation can win against the greedy fighting of nation-state oligarchs on the post-soviet space.

Unfortunately, we can't afford to pay 120 Euro and would very appreciate your assistance with grants. For travel expenses (from Moscow and Kiev) we may try to apply for the STEP Beyond Travel Grant.