

Impossible Transmission



a project of the Festival d'Avignon, the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès, and Mathilde Monnier

Artistic coordination Mathilde Monnier, choreographer

with the complicity of

Patric Chiha, videographer

Stéphane Bouquet, author and playwright

Cristina Garcia Morales, writer

With 50 young artists,

French and international students



About this project

Impossible Transmission is an immersion, exchange, and research project for young artists and performing arts students taking place within the Festival d'Avignon. This postgraduate project brings together many young talents of the theatre arts with the support of the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès as part of its "Artistes dans la Cité" grant programme.

Under the coordination of Mathilde Monnier, the participants will experience the Festival d'Avignon as a space of learning and artistic experimentation, thanks to workshops and masterclasses.

It will also be an *agora* of the gaze, where those young professional artists will be given privileged access to shows, rehearsals, and encounters with the artists of this year's edition of the Festival. Each group of 25 participants will embark on a week-long adventure, as part of a group made up of people from all over France and from other countries and continents, and will be given the opportunity to take part in presentations about the Impossible Transmission project open to the public and to professionals.



“After completing their training, young artists from all over France and abroad are invited to immerse themselves in the vastness of the Avignon nights, as if in a cauldron of endless possibilities: to see shows together, to shadow artists at work on extraordinary stages, to talk to scenographers, to lighting engineers, to strangers, or even to visit the kitchen of the Festival. Perhaps something can be transmitted this way, not as organised knowledge, but through happy accidents and unexpected interactions within this endless well of know-how, experiences, and tools that is the Festival d'Avignon. Impossible Transmission, not because nothing can ever be shared of the history of forms, but because we are dreaming here of the possibility that aesthetic ideas could follow explosive and unexpected roads—it was impossible, yet it happened. So here's the rule of the game: to offer young artists the opportunity to come up with their own way of being spectators of this machine-festival (both on- and offstage). Then to give them a chance to share the way they feel, understand, and react, as part of a *work-out* in the Eglise des Célestins, which will open its doors every weekend for this project to offer a moment of performance, exchange... and maybe transgression.”

Mathilde Monnier, January 2024

Participants

50 French- and/or English- and/or Spanish-speaking
young artists and students
of diverse artistic backgrounds: theatre, dance, visual arts

When

Week 1 : 25 participants from 8 to 13 July

Week 2 : 25 participants from 15 to 20 July

4 public presentations scheduled on 12, 13, 19, and 20 July at 7:00pm (duration: 90 minutes)

Where

Église des Célestins

Typical day

- Morning
- physical warm up
- critical warm up (critical analysis of a show, discussion, debate)
- encounter and workshop with artists, creators, and professionals present at the 78th edition of the Festival d'Avignon (directors, choreographers, light, sound, costume and set designers, playwrights, administrators, producers, subtitlers, location managers, etc.)
- Afternoon and evening
- a time of collective research and experimentation
- shows (each participant will get to attend 6 shows)

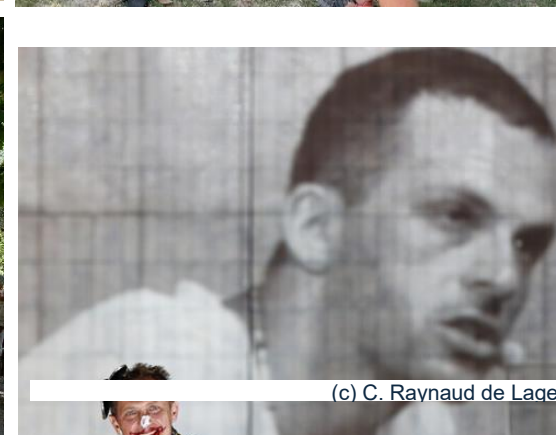
Early ideas for encounters and workshops

- Tiago Rodrigues, director of the Festival d'Avignon and creator of the show *Hécube*
- Gwenaël Morin, director, *Quichotte*
- Marta Górnicka, creator of the show *Mothers, a song in wartime*
- Mariano Pensotti, creator of the show *El que camina al lado*
- Caroline Guiela Nguyen, creator of the show *Lacrima*





(c) Festival d'Avignon



(c) C. Raynaud de Lage





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Since 1984, Mathilde Monnier has established herself as one of the central figures in French contemporary dance.

Director of the Centre choréographique national de Montpellier (1994-2013), then of the Centre national de la danse (2013-2019), she's spent her career ceaselessly questioning her art through her many collaborations with artists from all disciplines.

Recently, she's worked with La Ribot and Tiago Rodrigues (*Please please please*) and is currently artist in residence at La Halle Tropisme in Montpellier. The audience of the Festival d'Avignon is very familiar with her work; she's presented *L'Atelier en pièce* (1996), *Les lieux de là* (1999), *frère&sœur* (2005), *La Place du singe* with Christine Angot (2005), *2008 Vallée* with Katerine (2008), and *Black light* (2023) at the Festival.

Fondation d'entreprise Hermès

Every commitment of the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès is guided by a single conviction: "Our actions create and reveal us." In other words, actions make those who act for the common good greater. The Fondation establishes the necessary conditions to transmit know-how, create works, protect our environment, and encourage acts of solidarity through several programmes which allow it to work alongside its beneficiaries as we build the world of tomorrow.

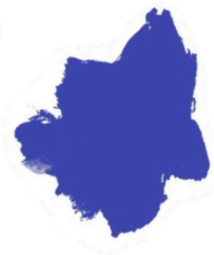
Together, those actions are an answer to the Fondation's fundamental ambition: to nurture collective intelligence, to unite progress and common good, and to put the human back at the heart of our society.

Founded in 2008, the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès is directed by Laurent Pejoux and presided by Olivier Fournier.



& international partners - in progress

- NTCH Taiwan National Theatre
- Korean Foundation for International Cultural Exchange (KOFICE)
- Seoul Performing Arts Festival
- Acción Cultural Española (tbc)
- Lithuanian National Drama Theatre (tbc)
- Institut Français



Contact

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