

#Svobodays

Project file

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Subject

International research-creation project, based upon the work of the scenographer Josef Svoboda, whose 100th anniversary of his birth is celebrated in 2020.

A project in three phases

- ✓ Phase 1 (Sept 2019 to June 2020) aims to create kinetic models and exhibition materials, made by students in scenography and lighting from three European schools. These workshops are complemented by lectures and roundtable discussions upon Svoboda's work and theatre' relationships with science and technology.
- ✓ Phase 2 is linked with Svoboda large exhibition in Gask castle (CZ, summer 2020):
 - **Workshop** (June 2020, 20 to 27) / Students from different European schools will take part in the lighting of exhibited models -some built by Svoboda himself.
 - **International masterclass** (august 2020) « Space, light and material(s) » open to students in scenography and lighting of every provenance.
- ✓ Phase 3 (Nov 2020 to June 2022) features the organization of events called *Svobodays* in different European higher education institutions, with the presentation of models made during phases 1 and 2.

Who is Josef Svoboda?

Josef Svoboda (1920 – 2002) is a Czech internationally famous scenographer, who worked from 1943 to 2000 around the world, authoring near 700 creations for theatre and opera. This remarkable artist kept exploring the possibilities of lighting, projections and advanced technologies of his time, to renew the language and means of scenography.

Why do we take interest in his work?

By its scope, its poetic might and the range of means used, Svoboda's work can be read as a synthesis of the mutations in scenography during the second half of the 20th century, which we inherited. To reconsider his trade secrets is a way to set in perspective our contemporary practices in scenography, lighting, projections and advanced technologies applied to the stage.

What are #Svobodays?

They are events articulated around the work of Josef Svoboda: lectures, films, workshops, roundtable discussions and an exhibition of works and models prepared by students. Three *Svobodays* have already taken place at Ensatt (Lyon 2018), Resad (Madrid 2019) and ESAD (Sevilla 2019). After the success and the large scope of discussions that followed them, we wish to enlarge the project and share it with the students of more schools in more countries.

Project staff

The institution that carries the project is ENSATT (Lyon, France).

Coordination : Christine Richier svobodays@gmail.com

The project is conceived and managed by an executive committee of three researchers, all of them stage practitioners, specialists of scenography and lighting, teachers and initiators of the first *Svobodays* :

✓ Christine Richier / ENSATT - France

Lighting designer for theatre and dance. Professor and head of the lighting design Master (Ensatt). Author of several publications on light and scenography, she followed Josef's Svoboda's work as an assistant between 1986 and 1998. She defended in 2019 a thesis on the place of lighting in Svoboda's work.

✓ Eufrasio L. Muñoz / ESAD - Espagne

Scenographer and professor at Esad (Sevilla, Spain) where he teaches scenography, he's also head of the foreign relations department. He participated several times in the Prague quadrennial exhibition. Currently finishing a PhD work on Czech theatre.

✓ Martin Ondruš / JAMU - République Tchèque

Scenographer for theatre and opera. Lecturer in JAMU Dpt of scenography (Brno, CZ). Co-curator of Svoboda exhibition planned in GASK Kutná Hora castle (CZ). He defended in 2020 a thesis on Svoboda and Wagner.

Research team

The team is completed with associated researchers and professional experts:

- Denis Fruchaud, scenographer, head of the scenography Dpt at Ensatt, France.
- Dr. Marie Jirásková, artist and professor in the scenography Dpt at Jamu, CZ.
- Philippe Berthomé, lighting designer, head of the stage management Dpt at TNS (Strasbourg, France).
- Annie Leuridan, Benjamin Nesme and François Weber (France), lighting and video designers. Researchers in innovating systems for performing arts.
- Patrick Tenoudji, cultural anthropologist and translator.
- Katia Hala, researcher in Czech theatre history, teacher and translator.
- Giorgio Ursini, specialist of scenography exhibitions, curator of the Svoboda 2020 exhibition.
- Ángel Martínez Roger, professor of history of theatre at Resad (Madrid, Spain). Curator of the 2008 Svoboda exhibition (Madrid).

Project's steering

A steering committee has been created to monitor the different phases of the project.

Its member are:

- Christine Richier, project coordinator
- Olivia Château, manager for development, partnership and international cooperation (Ensatt)
- Quentin Touitou, assistant manager for development and partnerships (Ensatt).
- Hélène Masingue, research executive assistant (Ensatt).

Trimestral meetings are scheduled to follow the project's progress and ensure proper use of allocated funds.

Partner schools

Phase 1

- ENSATT: École Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Techniques du Théâtre (Lyon, France)
- ESAD: Escuela Superior de Arte Dramatico (Séville, Spain)
- JAMU: Janacek Academy of Performing Arts (Brno, CZ)

A workshop has also been scheduled at ENSA (Nantes), and a *Svoboday* is scheduled at TNS (Strasbourg).

Phase 2

- Workshop (June 2020): 2 students from the three partner schools, with possible students from TNS (Strasbourg), ENSA (Nantes) and Accademia di Belli Arti (Milano, Italy).
- International Masterclass (aug. 2020) open to students from every provenance.

Phase 3

Organisation of *Svobodays* in different schools from European cities where Svoboda used to work.

Actual contacts: Beuth-hochschule (Berlin), Accademia di Belli Arti (Milano), Guild Hall (Londres).

Ongoing contacts: Amsterdam School of the Arts (Pays-Bas), UCL Louvain La Neuve (Belgique), Stockholm University of the Arts (Suède), La Manufacture, Lausanne (CH).

Objectives and expected results

- To federate ideas and skills of students from different schools and universities.
- To question how Svoboda's work and experimentations might inspire contemporary creation in the fields of scenography, lighting and advanced technologies.
- To contribute to the diffusion of knowledge and school partnership
- To offer the students of involved schools a possibility of public expression and presentation of their researches, models and creative work.

Transversal objectives

- To do a research about the way lighting is taught in those different schools (production of a final report).
- To work on the conception of miniaturized and focusable Led sources for lighting scenography models, since we noticed that none of the schools visited in Europe had any adapted equipment.

Partners and support

- Ministère de la culture (France)
- Ministerstvo kultury (Czech Republic)
- Scientific committee of the exhibition Svoboda 2020 (CZ).
- Josef Svoboda- scénographe, o.p.z., www.svoboda-scenograph.cz
- Czech Embassy in Madrid
- IDU - Divadelni Ustav (Prague Theatre Institute)
- FabLab Insa (Lyon)

(others partnership and support in progress)

Enclosed Documents :

- 1 : Masterclass program (august 2020)
- 2 : Minutes of the first *Svobodays* (2018-2019)

