

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FATE offers creative status holders opportunities within the cultural sector**

Amsterdam, 15/03/2021

**ZID Theater’s new project FATE brings young creative newcomers, mostly status holders, into contact with the art and cultural sector in the Netherlands. On 21 February 2021, the FATE training commenced in Amsterdam with 30 participants.**

**FATE** - **Future Academy on Tour in Europe** – is funded by the EU’s Creative Europe programme. ZID Theater initiated and runs the project in collaboration with four international partners: Atalaya / TNT (Spain), University of Torino / Social Community Theater (Italy), Studio 7 (Germany) and DAH Teatar (Serbia). The partners work in their own country but share expertise and experiences on an international level.

With FATE, ZID wants to increase opportunities for creative young people with a refugee or migrant background, so they can participate equally in the professional arts and cultural sector. This has proven to be quite a challenge in these uncertain and turbulent times for the sector.

“We searched for our young participants using various organisations and received around 70 registrations. Ultimately, 30 were selected coming from 11 different countries and all with a background in various art disciplines: theatre, film, music and dance. Among those selected are also people who want to work behind the scenes in the cultural sector. We are going to collaborate with various cultural organisations and art academies to achieve our goal ”.

*Sebo Bakker, artistic coordinator FATE*

 **One-to-one walks**

On Sunday 21 February 2021, ZID started the 12-week training in Amsterdam. The training includes both creative and practical components. Creating your own digital portfolio and coming into contact with the right organisations are the most important of these.

"We are going to ask the participants: "What did you want to become when you were a child?", as that dream can turn into reality". *Daan Bosch, theatre maker and trainer for FATE*

Because we are currently not allowed to organise group meetings, we started the project with individual walks for one hour with the participants. Six employees from ZID started at 10 am with the one-to-one walks through various neighbourhoods in Amsterdam. During the walks we got to know each other and went deeper into why they want to participate in the project and what their ultimate goal is. Afterwards, we recorded a short video as a way of introduction to the other participants, so that everyone can still get to know each other. It's quite a job, but corona should not be an excuse to postpone this project. It’s far too important for that. The participants feel a palpable sense of urgency. Months of isolation have also greatly affected this group. They already have very little social contacts and because of the corona measures they have often become even lonelier.

**Added value for the sector**

We want to "boost" the participants in all areas to make their dream come true. They are strong and resilient people from all over the world, and the cultural sector will also benefit from connecting with these people. It will help to view reality from a different, new perspective and to reflect on it.

"For art and culture it is important to be up to date and directly connected to a rapidly changing reality." Karolina Spaic, director of the ZID Theater

FATE offers the sector many new opportunities. Therefore, we hope that numerous cultural organisations will work with us. In any case, art academies are already enthusiastic and have indicated that they would like to open their doors to these new talents.

**Programme**

The programme was developed before the corona period, so it is hard to stick to the original plan, but the FATE project will run until December 2022. The training for the participants takes place in the Netherlands and Spain. Furthermore, a multidisciplinary production is also created in the Netherlands and Spain and with a little luck it will be shown in both countries. Additionally, the University of Torino / SCT is working on developing a European programme based on the results of the training and lastly conferences are being organised in Germany and Serbia. All international partners are enthusiastic and determined to keep the project going, despite the corona measures.

Detailed information can be found here: <https://zidtheater.nl/fate-2020-2022>

**About ZID Theater**

Since 1992, ZID has been telling urban stories and developing artistic productions based on the stories of all city residents. The company has the ability to merge people from diverse cultural backgrounds and ages on stage. Programmes are created through improvisation, storytelling and with input from all actors and makers. This way, ZID reaches a new, diverse audience that does not go to the existing theatres.

ZID means wall in Serbian and in 2020, artistic director Karolina Spaić was appointed Knight in the Order of Oranje-Nassau for her work. According to the mayor of Amsterdam, who awarded the knighthood (by telephone), she is demolishing walls and building bridges, thereby contributing to a colourful, artistic and tolerant city.

[Photo Our Odyssey]

[Photo caption: The refugee and migration issues formed the starting point for the international performance “Our Odyssey” - ZID Theater, 2019, photo: Maria Morales]

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