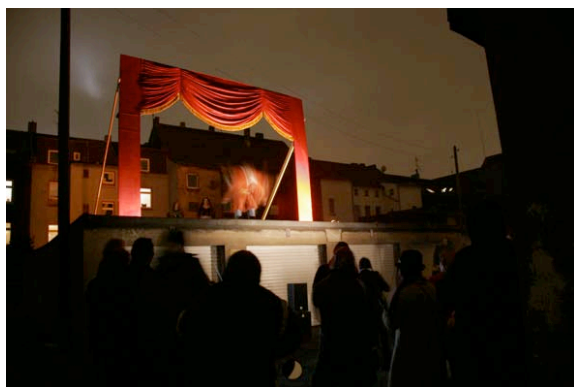




Looking back and into the future at the end of 2007, the first year of production

1 Origin

Theater Arbeit Duisburg - TAD (Theatre Work Duisburg) has been founded in November 2006. Preparations for this foundation began in July 2006, in September TAD already started the first production. TADs origin lies in Duisburg-Bruckhausen, where Stefan Schroer founded the Junges Theater Bruckhausen (Young Theatre Bruckhausen) in 2003.



Der Stand der Dinge. Bruckhausen © Annette Jonak 2006

In 2005, Stella Cristofolini and Oleg Zhukov joined the leading team. They became members of the Kulturbunker Bruckhausen e.V. and worked out parts of its general conception. They invented the Bunker-Theatertisch (theatre Round table) to sound out the possibilities of professional independent theatre work in the peripherie. Next to the regular rehearsals of the Junges Theater they realised the “European Youth-Theatrefestival in Duisburg-Bruckhausen” and the interdisciplinary project “Der Stand der Dinge. Bruckhausen” (The state of the art. Bruckhausen) which is now, in a transformed way, part of TADs repertoire.

The structural frame of the Kulturbunker soon became too narrow, and so TAD, as an independent structure, came to life.



Der Stand der Dinge. Bruckhausen © Annette Jonak 2006

2 Background

Amongst others two directors, Martin Kloepfer and Markus Schlappig, who only worked in state theatres before became part of TAD. Crucial aim of TAD is to

professionalise and intensify theatrical work from the perspective of the peripherie, the space where structures of society with all its contradictions are visible in a clearer way than within its centre.

TADs theatrework is research in content and form. TADs productions differ in aesthetic signatures, but share common questions and ideas as regards content and research on the interface of artistic and social practices. Consequently contacts and cooperations with artists from other genres resulted from this first year of production.



In dieser Armut welche Fülle (What an abundance within this poorness). Covered Sculpture „Kiosk ess-bar“ (in cooperation with R. Bamberg, D. Czupryn, H. Malz, P. Micol)
© Annette Jonak 2007

3 Theatre Productions 2007

(detailed description on www.theater-arbeit-duisburg.de □ Projekte)

First production was "**Marmor**" by Joseph Brodsky, directed by Markus Schlappig. In the only dramawork of the Noble Price winner TAD found several of its crucial questions for its work in a dense way: the question of forced integration into the existing society when at the same time more and more people are disintegrated for several reasons.



Marmor

© Irmis Sellhorst 2007

The production was realised under precarious conditions. The learning process resulting from this is reflected in the different publications of the piece: there was a preview in the Autonomic Centre in Mülheim/Ruhr in November 2006, followed by two shows in Duisburgs DJazz in March 2007. The final piece has been eventually shown in Ringlokschuppen in Mülheim in September and October 2007.

"**Das Weiße wird uns immer femder – Meet John Doe**", direction Martin Kloepfer, is based on a real story that happened in a Duisburg bar. One night a man entered the bar who has not been seen there before. He was a black-American Irak-war-veteran who invited everyone in the bar to drink with him. Immediately a classical theatre situation came up: on the one side there was the – quite sick – choir: the lefty intellectuals, depressive, defatistic regulars of the bar, on the other side the healthy, strong and (at least in the beginning) ostentatiously happy individual. It was clear that there would not be a happy marriage of the two qualities, and consequently the end of the night saw the destruction of the individual and the reinvention of the choirs idea of order. The piece is based on interviews with witnesses of that night, premiere was in Theater Freudenhaus in Essen in May 2007. Two shows were realised in Zariza in Düsseldorf, and in June 2007 "Meet John Doe" was central part of the project "10 Tage besser leben – TAD LOKAL" (10 days of better life) in Duisburg.



Meet John Doe

© Annette Jonak 2007

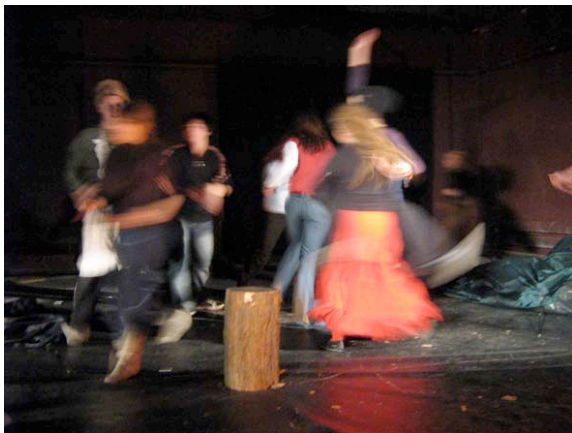
"**Pop Shop**" was realised with inmates of the Juvenile Jail in Düsseldorf. Three weeks of rehearsals in jail in February 2007 marked the beginning of this project. Central was the concrete situation of the juvenile men, their histories, their situation of being locked in, crucial to deal with these stories in an artistic way.



Pop Shop. Juvenile Jail Düsseldorf, entrance © TAD 2007

Second phase was realised outside of jail. The final performance was not a homogenous theatre piece but a mixture of documentation and reflection of this work. The scene turns around the situation in jail: the former inmates acted independently, free from the stories from jail that were audible from tape. Identification was not made easy for the auditory. "Pop Shop" premiered in Kulturzentrale Hundertmeister in Duisburg in June 2007 and was performed at "10 Tage besser leben – TAD LOKAL". A radio play of the piece is in the making.

Next to these three performances two international projects of the Young Theatre Bruckhausen (JTB), now part of TAD, have been realised: **"Die Zeitmaschine – Wehikul Czasu"** (Time machine), a free adaption of H.G. Wells' piece, and L. Carrolls **"Die Jagd nach dem Schnatz – Pogon za Sznacem"** (The hunting of the Snark). These coproductions with the polish Theatre Brama from Goleniow mainly based on improvisations by the young actors. Common rehearsals took place in the international Cultural Research Centre Schloss Bröllin close to the polish-german border, performances were shown in Bröllin, Szczecin, Berlin, Duisburg and Dortmund in January and July 2007.



JTB: *Wehikul Czasu – Die Zeitmaschine* © JTB 2007

Mainly because of the difficulties of finding adequate partners for showing pieces in Duisburg, **"10 Tage besser leben – TAD LOKAL"** (10 days of better living – TAD LOKAL) has been invented.



10 Tage besser leben – TAD LOKAL © TAD 2007

And became more than a temporary place for showing performances: from 8th until 17th of July an empty shop in the centre of Duisburg was brought to life with vivid cultural actions. Several artistic events happened every day, not only TAD productions but exhibitions, performances, music events, public rehearsals and discussions within this space that combined Art and Everyday life, Work and Leisure time. Within these 10 days TAD attracted a whole new auditory and a lot of artists and young but already frustrated cultural activists that joined in with their own work and activities and felt encouraged by this public action of TAD LOKAL.

A special edition of "der aponaut – Zeitung für kulturelle Entwicklung" (the aponaut – magazine for cultural development) has been released about 10 Tage besser leben. (Find it on www.theater-arbeit-duisburg.de as a pdf).

At the end of this year TAD initiated **"In dieser Armut welche Fülle! – TADvent"** (What an abundance within this poorness – TADvent) that was again dealing with the lack of cultural activities in Duisburg, especially in the area of theatre.

On the four weekends of December TAD appeared at different spaces that are usually hardly defined as cultural/artistic spaces: a kiosk (small shop), a light sculpture, a bar in the station. This work can be seen as symptomatic for the state of the art of TAD: more and more convinced to have chosen Duisburg (and the people that live here) as a society in nuce and because of this as the right place to work in, TAD developed faster than it was expected here. The public invitation to search for spaces for cultural activities is last but not least an invitation to do so to ourselves.



In dieser Armut welche Fülle! © Annette Jonak 2007

4 Projects 2008

Within this first year of production TAD initiated cooperations with professional artists and institutions that will guarantee a progressive continuation of what has been started in 2007. With these partners TAD will realise its bigger productions in 2008.

"Zum Beispiel Ruhrort: Arbeit und Leben im Wandel" (For example Ruhrort: Work and Life in change; in cooperation with Festival Akzente Duisburg and others)

TAD artists will be present and work in Ruhrort together with videoartist Ruth Bamberg, Avantgarde musician Phillippe Micol and association "Theorie und Praxis" ("Theory and Practice", that has already been partner in the project "Der Stand der Dinge – Bruckhausen") from February to May 2008. Ruhrort, a part of Duisburg, is situated right in the middle of Europe's biggest and massively expanding Inland Harbour. Though it is no longer the vivid part of the city that it has been before, it is more characterised by decay, empty shops and houses and partly visible poorness. The project asks for the historical as well as contemporary connections between economic development and social and individual life. The research will start in February and will be supported by national and international artists from March/April 2008 on. In April this research will lead to concrete artistic productions, one of them being the drama "Our Town", an adaptation of the piece of T. Wilder combined with experiences of people living in Ruhrort, directed by Martin Kloepfer, another one will be a project by JTB (Young Theatre) developed in Ruhrort.

End of May all products of the artistic and theoretical activities will be shown at 12-day Festival Duisburger Akzente 2008. However, this is only the first stage of the project which is planned for several years (see item 5).

"Und keiner will der Kapitalist sein...! - Der ewige Maurer" (And Noone wants to be the Capitalist... - The Eternal Bricklayer; in cooperation with Ringlockschuppen Mühlheim, Theater Halle 7 Munich and others)

This piece, directed by Markus Schlappig, is a composition of material of early pieces of Heiner Müller. Rehearsals will start in August 2008, preparations are already made.



In dieser Armut welche Fülle! © Annette Jonak 2007
Lightsculpturer Souterrain. Scene from "Die Schlacht" by H. Müller (first studies on "Und keiner will der Kapitalist ...")

The projects lies stress on the research of the differences between (the hoped for) future, our (still young) past and presence. "Where is the morning that we

saw yesterday..." (H. Müller). The performance will be created in cooperation with Ringlockschuppen Mühlheim, Theater Halle 7 Munich and Kulturstandort Schiffbauergasse in Potsdam. Presentations will be supported by public theoretical work and will be shown in the cities mentioned above and others from October 2008 on. Part of the project will be a documentation and reflection on the expected different perceptions of the piece.

"Im Ausland wie Glas" (In foreign Countries like Glas; in cooperation with Theorie und Praxis e.V.)

This project will be realised with young asylum seekers from Berlin and Duisburg from February on (inspired by texts of Aglaya Veteranyi, direction Stella Cristofolini). In her autobiographic texts Veteranyi describes a world that she is part of, but that's though strange to here most of the time. A refugee child from Rumania, she travels with her Circus family creating her own dream world in her fantasy in a cold surrounding that is supposed to be the real one. The stories and fantastic images Veteranyi creates are the source inspiration of the project.

Together with the participants possibilities of artistic transforming of own stories, experiences, thoughts and wishes will be developed with all sorts of theatre media: acting, dance, with objects, puppets and audio tools. Presentations, supported by theoretical and political interventions, will be in Berlin, Potsdam, Halle and various places in NRW in July/August 2008.

5 TAD 2007 to 2011

First year of production of TAD was not only very productive but created a structure of organisation that allows a progressive continuation. Especially having gained Festival Office Duisburg, Ringlokschuppen Mülheim and Theater Halle 7 Munich as longtime partners might change working conditions of TAD in a positive way.

The professional structures of these partners differ to the still precarious conditions of TAD productions: TAD has no office, no rehearsal space and no financial means (apart from budgets that have to be applied for every single project) that would guarantee a continuous development and professionalism (like a budget for project development, management and office work). Next to artistic and contextual development TAD aims for this financial bases in 2008 to be able to stabilize the structure for further production.

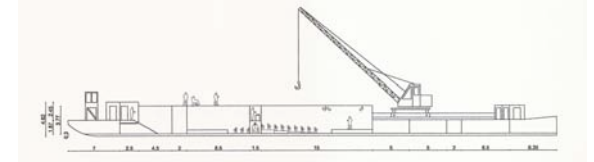


Duisburg Ruhrort, Former Pack-hall © TAD 2007
Possible presentation space for "Z.B. Ruhrort ..."

As regards content, plans already go until 2011 and beyond. The research started with at "Zum Beispiel Ruhrort ..." is only the beginning of a long term work period in this area. This project will temporarily finish with the "Cultural Capital" events in 2010. In general TAD and its partners aim to create a structure for artistic and cultural work in this area that goes beyond the efforts of 2010.

Cooperation with Ringlokschuppen Mülheim just began. Ringlokschuppen exists since quite a while as a space for cultural activities, but just recently started to professionally establish its main emphasis Independent Theatre. A close cooperation is planned for the future, like with Theater Halle 7 Munich, where TAD member Markus Schlappig works as artistic co-director. With the cooperation in the project "Und keiner will der Kapitalist sein ..." Theater Halle 7 enlarges its field of production (that is usually focussed on contemporary drama) for the first time and plans to regularly cooperate with TAD for this reason.

In 2010 TAD still plans, in cooperation with Verband Freie Darstellende Künste NRW (association of Independent Performing Arts NRW) the project Theaterschiffahrt durch das Ruhrgebiet (Theatrical boat trip through the Ruhrarea; see presentation on www.theater-arbeit-duisburg.de) which is as well part of Duisburgs officially presented projects for the Cultural Capital as it is intensely communicated in the Cultural Capital segment "Kultur-Kanal" (culture channel). If the "Theaterschiffahrt" will be realised, TAD has to start with the production of two pieces belonging to the project in 2009.



Historical towboat Fendel 147, current photo and draft for its rebuilding in a theatre-ship © Agnieszka Wnuczak 2007

Not the least TAD aims to develop its research on contemporary and up-to-date forms of theatre. Cooperation with artists from other genres as well as with theorists shall be intensified. Next to the already internationally working JTB (Young Theatre) TAD starts to internationalize its work with the Ruhrort project and wishes to establish a versatile and vivid long term exchange.