

APT

Advanced Performance Training

is part of PopoK (Posthogeschool voor Podiumkunsten: Postgraduate School for Performing Arts) based in Antwerp (Belgium)

NEXT CALL FOR PROJECTS DEADLINE: 10th of August 2008

APT is a post-graduate 12 month performance research program, developed out of the individual projects of the participants, and based on the principles of self-education and collaboration.

APT is an open research environment

based on the principles of self-education and collaboration. During a 12 month trajectory the participants are invited to develop their personal research project, in 3 separate blocks of 3 months. The learning zone of APT is defined on the one hand by the sharing of the research results of the participants (in discussions, showings, the development and sharing of tools, methodologies, etc...), and on the other hand the programme is constructed out of the needs for information or assistance of every one of them. That way APT provides a tailor-made programme of both practical, theoretical and technical working sessions, in matching the adequate material and ad hoc teaching staff to every single project that is developed.

To be clear: APT does not aim to offer a 'formatted' training programme nor does it, as in a regular school, proceed from a fixed view on the educational needs within the artistic landscape, to then set up a programme that could remedy the alleged gaps in the performance practice and theory. APT is not a closed learning environment but rather a meeting space in which all participants (students, teachers, technicians etc...) can try to formulate as clearly as possible their own research questions. Out of these questions the need will arise for contributions from mentors, other artists, theoreticians, etc..., which will then be provided by APT. The working formats will thus be developed on the basis of this project (from talks, workshops and debates to publications, radio broadcasts and festivals). Although these formats are developed out of the researcher's individual project, they can also be shared by the other participants of the group. In other words: individual research can lead to a group curriculum which can be picked up and shared by all. This exchange is an essential starting point for the functioning of APT and consequently the entire programme proceeds in the first place from the sharing of knowledge among the participants themselves.

The APT methodology can thus best be described as an 'open collective': it involves a group of people who wish to develop and share their own research practice in such a way that, to a large extent, the dynamics of producing and sharing knowledge will already occur within the group. This practice of sharing also entails a shared responsibility as regards the organization of the curriculum, the development of formats for the exchange, and discussions on how to communicate the research to the outside world. This shared practice is aimed at feeding the participants' individual work and at strengthening their self-confidence as 'authors' and 'decision makers'. The added value generated for each participant through this participative approach consists in an increase of knowledge, the development of a network and the engagement with other

perspectives and visions - in a nutshell: the development of 'cultural capital'. This capital is communal but can be applied by each participant to his or her own work. The added value, both communal and individual, is in fact the aim of the (pedagogical) practice which can emerge at APT.