

Issue number: 013

Issue: Breaking stiff genre definitions in theatre

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Summary of discussion, conclusions and/or recommendations:

Recognition of various definitions of genres:

- Adult/children
- Dance/theatre/opera/performance/multidisciplinary
- Solo/ensemble
- Own work/ other's work

Major statements:

Artists fight definitions because contrary to the creation

Presenters and arts councils need the labeling, they say

The marketing use labeling in order to communicate with the audience

The audience is brought up with genre labeling

The system of labeling is in fact censoring the free artistic development and narrowing the audience's approach to the performing arts.

Recommendations:

Artist have to resist to put narrow labels on their work and instead strive to develop a more rich and precise language on their work.

The arts council/supporting bodies shall consider the possibility of breaking down the genre labeling.

The presenters, festival directors, managers, all intermediaries between the artist and the audience shall take responsibility for refining communication with the audiences and convey their artistic choices (the idea of curating).

The presenters and festival directors shall nurture and share the responsibility of artists' development.

Educate the children from very young to get acquainted with abstract theatre forms.

To educate the audience to be courageous and risk-taking – to love surprise.

