

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BETWEEN EOSTIGED AND SEACHANGE ARTS
ON FRIDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2010
IN GREAT YARMOUTH**

Participants:

- Joe Mackintosh, Director, SeaChange Arts
- Sarah James, Direction Assistant, SeaChange Arts
- Derek Purnell, Director, Norfolk Dance
- Mathilde Vautier, Coordinator, ZEPA network
- Matthieu Lamour, Director, Kendal'ch Federation
- Jean-Michel Le Viol, President, Eostiged
- Laurent Marrec, Dancer, Eotiged
- Martine Rateau, Street Arts Director
- Michèle Bosseur, Co-director, Le Fourneau, National Centre for Street Arts
- Aurélien Marteaux, Direction Assistant, Le Fourneau
- Valérie Gooch, Secretary, Le Fourneau

Joe Mackintosh, Director, SeaChange Arts thanks everybody for being present in Great Yarmouth.

Michèle Bosseur summarizes the background of the project.

October 2008, Out There

During the **Festival Out There first edition in 2008** in Great Yarmouth, **Joe Mackintosh** introduced **Derek Purnell, Norfolk Dance Director**, to Michèle Bosseur and Claude Morizur. They had meant to try to find a link between the amateur dances of both countries.

2008, First collaboration between le Fourneau and Kendalc'h

The Federation came to see le Fourneau to seek their support to create a street-focused show. Le Fourneau introduced them to **Martine Rateau**, Street-arts producer/director who would work with them. The show « **Courants Épiques** » was born from this collaboration. Joe MacIntosh saw this show two years ago in Morlaix during the FAR festival and enjoyed it.

More recently, Kendalc'h and Eostiged continued to work on other creations with Martine Rateau, in particular on the show Breih Omega with several Brittany dance groups in 2010.

March 2010, Carhaix in Brittany

When **Sarah James** and **Laurie from SeaChange Arts** came to **Carhaix** to attend the Générrik Vapeur's show in March 2010, Le Fourneau organized a meeting with Eostiged of which Jean-Michel Le Viol and the SeaChange Arts team to set the main ideas of the project.

August 2010, Vannes in Brittany

Laurie from SeaChange as well as two dancers from **Norfolk Dance**, **Sara Lewis** and **Laura McGill**, saw the Eostiget's show « la sorcière dans la rue » (the witch in the street) in Vannes and discussed with with Gwenaél Le Viol, the dance group choreographer.

Today we all think that a crossing between our two countries around the traditional dance would be interesting.

The objective of the meeting is therefore to see what we can build together over the year 2011 with a possible outcome during the festival Out There on 2011.

Presentation of Kendalc'h

Matthieu Lamour explains that **Kendalc'h Federation** (which means « to maintain » in Breton) was created in Quimper in 1950 and aims to preserve the heritage, the costumes and the traditional Brittany dances.

It also follows the evolution of the practice of these dances and their adaptation to the stage.

It gathers 120 Celtic circles, involving amateur dancers, and the **Eostiget circle** in Kerfeunteun in **Quimper is one of them**, with its 62 years of existence. This circle, in constant search of originality, is focused on creation and investigates new horizons. They are the first to have transferred the Brittany traditional dance on stage and in the street. They were champions of Brittany 10 times, the 10th title having been won last August.

The Kendalc'h Federation can provide support to the project.

Presentation of Eostiget

Eostiget has several aims/activities: the traditional aspect with dances and costumes for the competition, with a the training remit too. The group consists of 60 dancers but also 65 children, 25 teenagers, so the dancers are used to passing on their knowledge, which can be helpful for the preparation of the Fest Noz with the local population. And there is also the performance aspect, with indoor, on stage or outdoor shows, with a different energy, the integration of new dancers, the local population.

Presentation of Norfolk Dance

Derek Purnell then introduces Norfolk Dance. It used to be a small organisation which worked in close link with the Norwich and Norfolk festivals. It became independent, obtained a 3 year grant from the Arts Council and moved in their current studio, « The Garage ».

The role of Norfolk Dance is to develop dance in the Norfolk region by encouraging participation and by developing professional training. Derek contacted Joe. In this project, he wants to encourage participation and to support the organisation's artists, for them to develop their skills.

Joe clarifies the project's structure and his understanding of it so far, following some work he started doing with Derek.

To start work in Great Yarmouth's future cultural quarter, St Georges', due to open at the beginning of 2012, Joe has developed links with the local ethnic minorities, particularly the Portuguese community. Behind this area is a council housing district, ranking 23rd out of 35 000 English areas most affected by unemployment. 60 % of the adults of this area are unemployed, creating tensions between host community and ethnic minorities.

This is where the idea to start the 2011 edition of the Out There Festival by a mini festival in this area comes from, on Friday or Saturday (along the same idea as la Fête dans la Ville in Amiens). And why not by a Fest Noz?

If Eostiget attend, he would like to make the most of their presence throughout the festival.

When he saw their show in Morlaix two years ago, he enjoyed the energy, their way to investigate the places where they performed, the mixture between " the impression of mess " and perfect circles.

The first part of the project would therefore see Eostiget come to Great Yarmouth and make the

most of their experience in St Georges' area and that they could work with Norfolk Dance regarding the involvement of the local population.

Why not have Eostiged come prior to the festival in order to work with several Norfolk-based groups to prepare the local population to participate in the Friday evening Fest Noz and then the next day present the show " la Sorcière dans la rue " ?

The Out There Festival in 2011 will take place: on Friday 16th and Saturday 17th September (and maybe on Sunday).

Then, Michèle explains that the show « Courants Épiques » will not continue because it has already been touring for 2 years and the **Eostiged dancers** already work on other projects. They would like to work with **Martine Rateau** on the show « **La Sorcière dans la rue** », **along the same lines as** « Courants Épiques ».

Michèle hopes that the meeting focuses on:

- **The Fest Noz** and the community engagement around it
- **Two performances** of « la sorcière dans la rue » on Saturday and Sunday.

Jean-Michel mentions practical questions such as transport and number of days required for their attendance because Eostiged are all volunteers, they all work and cannot be available easily. He thinks that it will be less inconvenient for the dancers to get their Friday off, even their Monday morning.

Matthieu specifies that participants / trainers from Kendal'h could come earlier to train people. And Dereck thinks that Norfolk Dance could help to make the link with the local population.

Michèle suggests that Matthieu, Joe and herself meet later to deal with the issues of costs and organization as well as the practical details.

The idea of a Fest Noz on Friday evening and the performance of « la sorcière dans la rue » on Saturday and Sunday is accepted.

We now have to approach the various partners' involvement.

The creation of the show « La sorcière dans la rue »

Martine Rateau will be in charge of directing the show and set it outdoor.

The rehearsals will start from January in Brittany.

Le Fourneau will support the creation and will programme the performance first in May, during Le Mai des Arts and Le Printemps des Abers, then during Le FAR in August.

The show will then be performed for Out There 2011.

The work with Norfolk Dance on this creation could be included in more specific moments, eg during the walkabout or at unexpected moments, what would bring an additional energy.

It was concluded that **4 or 5 dancers from Norfolk Dance could go to Brittany in May for a rehearsal and two performances of the show « la sorcière dans la rue » (in le mai des arts and then in le Printemps des Abers) then in Morlaix during the FAR (the Federation is ready to welcome Norfolk dancer and to provide them accommodation). They will be the link between Norfolk Dance and Eostiged as they would learn the steps they will use to train local people at the Out There Festival in Great Yarmouth.**

The Fest Noz

On the other hand, following MATHIEU's proposal, **trainers from Kendal'h** would come and train dancers here in GREAT YARMOUTH.

The objective is to involve a wide audience, and a work on training could be also made towards schools.

The Fest Noz could also be a moment of food exchanges.

No Fest Noz without crêpe and crêpe makers! Eostiged are on board!

Michèle thinks that it is a great project. The financial aspects now need to be calculated, to make estimates and to work on the show and its production.

Other linked projects

* Joe continues by informing us about the progress of other projects such as their relation with King Street. This year, in February, they launched the « **Mardi Gras** », the Candlemas day. Many ethnic communities of Great Yarmouth have traditions around this event.

This year, SeaChange Arts commissioned Nick Warbutton (Stuff'n'Things) to create a street show « total crêpe ». It is a competition between two teams of crêpe makers involving the local population. There was also a choreographed « fight », based on the Lithuanian tradition of the fight between Spring and Winter on Mardi Gras.

They would like to do it again and to develop these projects. Why not with Mariza Von Stockart with whom Dereck works and a Breton crêpe maker ?

Jean-Michel emphasises that the Federation is very open in case there would be other needs or ideas.

Michèle comes back on « La marche des 1000 danseurs », an experimentation that le Fourneau set up this year. The idea was to train the local population to dance steps on the bolero of Ravel with TANGO SUMO's artists. This work lasted six months. A real method is required to involve the local population in such a project.

* The German choreographer **Mariza Von Stockart** works with Norfolk Dance. Her speciality is visual work, based on the public place. Joe appreciates her work and thinks that it would be suitable for the other ZEPA partners. Norfolk Dance are very satisfied to work with Mariza because as they deliver professional trainings, she brings them the creation side. It is an exchange because Mariza has no experience in training. But it is another part of the ZEPA project. Michèle will meet her tomorrow with Aurélien, Joe and Dereck in order to consider Mariza's participation in le FAR 2011. Viewing of her video.

* Joe explains then that Mike Martin, associate producer for SeaChange Arts, suggested to also look into the links with the **Southwest of England and Cornwall**. Derek already met Tim Brinkman. Michèle intervenes and specifies that le Fourneau must be careful because it also works on the Capable project which involves Cornwall and it is necessary to separate it from ZEPA.