

Anna Barmettler, october 2020

Abstract of PhD Thesis: far – festival des arts vivants in Nyon (CH) and residencies in production networks

The dissertation examines the heterogenous phenomenon of artistic residencies in the field of performative arts, its connection to theatre festivals and its position in production networks. The main subject of the analysis is Far – festival des arts vivants in Nyon (CH) and a narrow selection of productions from the festival program, which has been developed during one or several residency programs. The research project focuses on flexibility and openness as core qualities of a residency as a form of collaboration between institutions and individual artists/ companies.

Following the thesis that residencies function as an alternative to the regular theatre production modes, the work investigates such aspects of residencies as inspirational potential (on artistic and institutional levels), a form of organizational engagement in creative processes and as an environment for creative retreat and reflection. More generally, residencies are investigated within the theoretical framework of international transferability and circulation of production/labor concepts and institutional profiles as well as physical mobility of artists and companies. These contexts allow promising comparative prospects on residencies and festivals.

As a part of the AMBIZIONE project “Festivals and Institutional Changes: Perspectives on International Theatre Production” (SNF 2019-2023), the PhD thesis aims to explore fluent differences between residency and coproduction. Reflecting on residencies as an institutionalized form of cultural mobility and transnational exchange, the dissertation intends to use visualization and analysis of production networks.