

The stage laboratory *DisAbility on Stage* at the Accademia Teatro Dimitri in Verscio and at the Zurich University of the Arts is a pilot project. It aims to provoke discussion on diversity and the participation of disabled people in Dance and Performer Training Programs at Swiss Art Schools. Two exemplary collaborations in the BA Contemporary Dance in Zurich and the MA Theater in Verscio, in cooperation with the inclusive dance companies BewegGrund in Bern and Teatro DanzAbile in the Ticino, foster the transfer of know-how between performer training institutions, inclusive dance and theatre practitioners, and practice-based research at Swiss Art Schools. Workshops, showings, and a colloquium at different stages of the project involve students, lecturers, and international experts.

The results of the cooperation between students and professional disabled dancers or performers will be presented and discussed in June 2017 in the context of the dance and theatre festivals in Basel, Bern, Geneva, and Lugano under the banner of IntegrART/ Migros Culture Percentage.

The stage laboratory is linked to the SNSF-funded research project *DisAbility on Stage* at the Institute for the Performing Arts and Film, ZHdK, which aims to foster discourse on dis/ability within Swiss Art Schools and Universities. It questions models of dis/ability in theoretical reflection, performing practice and education on a broader spectrum, bringing together a unique team with members from national universities, art schools, dance and theatre companies and festivals, including the three major Swiss language regions.

As a kick-off event, the colloquium aims to lay the ground for the upcoming practice collaboration. We will explore recent developments and visions for the future inclusion of disabled performers in the Dance and Performer Training at Swiss and other European Art Schools. Best Practice presentations, critical reflections, and reports based on own experiences will serve as a starting point for our discussion.

The event addresses students, lecturers, artists, and researchers with or without disabilities. It is also aimed at experts for inclusion and diversity, decision-makers, experts for equality policy, as well as anybody who is interested in new approaches and diversity in dance and performer training.

## Tuesday 25. 10. 2016

- 09:30** **Welcome & Introduction**
- 10:00** ***DisAbility on Stage:***  
Presentation of the SNSF - research project and the collaboration with the BA Contemporary Dance (ZHdK) and the MA Theatre (Accademia Teatro Dimitri)  
Sara Bocchini, Demis Quadri (Accademia Teatro Dimitri), Yvonne Schmidt (IPF/ZHdK)
- 10:45** **Coffee break**
- 11:15** **The Virtuosity of Imperfection. Inclusive dance practice at the Royal Conservatoire Antwerp**  
Kris de Visscher, demos, Brussels (B)
- 12:00** **Lunch**
- 13:30** **Moving Matters. Supporting Disabled Students in Higher Education**  
Sarah Whatley, Center for Dance Research, Coventry University (UK)
- 14:15** **Perspectives on Disability and Dance Training**  
Jürg Koch, Freelance dance artist, Bern (CH)
- 15:00** **Coffee break**
- 15:30** **Inclusion with Barriers**  
Jana Zöll, ensemble member of the Staatstheater Darmstadt, Alumna of the Akademie für Darstellende Kunst Ulm (GER)  
Chair: Isabella Spirig, IntegrART, Migros Culture Percentage
- 16:15** **Short provocations from the participant observers**  
Emanuel Rosenberg, Teatro DanzAbile, Bidogno  
Alessandro Schiattarella, dancer/choreographer, Basel  
Susanne Schneider, BewegGrund, Bern  
Sophie Vögele, Institute for Art Education, ZHdK  
Christine Weidmann, Head of the Office for Equality & Diversity, ZHdK
- 17:00** **Round Table Discussion: Perspectives for disabled students in performer training with all participants**  
Chair: Yvonne Schmidt, Project Manager *DisAbility on Stage*, IPF/ZHdK
- 18:00** **Apéro**

## Venue

Zurich University of the Arts  
Departement of Performing Arts and Film  
Gessnerallee 9-11  
Probühne 1 & Podium  
CH-8001 Zurich

**The conference venue is accessible for wheelchair users. If you have any access issues, please contact the organisers:**  
conference.ipf@zhdk.ch

## Contact

Dr. Yvonne Schmidt, Project Manager  
Email: conference.ipf@zhdk.ch

## Websites

ipf.zhdk.ch  
www.performativepraxis.ch  
<https://blog.zhdk.ch/disabilityonstage>

## Partner

Accademia Teatro Dimitri  
BewegGrund  
Teatro DanzAbile

## Sponsors



FOUNDATION  
OERTLI  
STIFTUNG

stiftungcorymbo 



FONDS NATIONAL SUISSE  
SCHWEIZERISCHER NATIONALFONDS  
FONDO NAZIONALE SVIZZERO  
SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

«The moment when we start having skilled disabled performers looking for work, they will start pushing the medium.»

# Disability and Performer Training – A colloquium

(Pedro Madacho, Co-Artistic director,  
CandoCo Dance Company, UK)



**z** hdk

Zürcher Hochschule der Künste

Photo: Cie BewegGrund & Cie Drift, „on beauty“, 2010; © Christian Glaus

25 October 2016  
Institute for the Performing Arts and Film (IPF)  
in collaboration with the BA Contemporary  
Dance, Department of Performing Arts and Film  
(DDK), and the Office for Equality & Diversity,  
Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK)