

## **A European youth**

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### **Manifest**

November 2012: we are 11 young Europeans – 10 actors and 1 stage director from Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Israel and France. We are all meeting for the first time at the Maly Drama Theatre in Saint Petersburg, in the context of a master-class directed by Lev Dodin.

#### **Our common motivation?**

**The desire to play theatre elsewhere than in our respective country, to enlarge our theatrical experience to Europe, with the idea that cultural differences make us richer.**

Out of this decisive encounter, questionings about theatre, about difference, about Europe arose naturally. One fact also appeared to us almost immediately as an evidence: **we want to make theatre together...**

... and we want to find a way to overcome this interrogation:

During the master-class, did we stand as **“ambassadors” of the theatre of our own country?**

/When facing an actor coming from another country than mine, didn't I find myself, at one point or another, thinking to myself “if he acts this way, maybe this is because he comes from this country which is not mine?”.

And when facing an actor trained with a different method than mine: “if he acts this way, maybe this is because he comes from another school than mine?”/

#### **Does each country has its own theatrical identity?**

**And in a broader sense, would it be relevant to talk of a European theatrical identity?**

February 2013: we are 11 young Europeans – 10 actors and 1 stage director from Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Israel and France. We are now joined together under the name of ISOTheatre.

**11 different views on theatre.**

**11 different views on Europe.**

**11 different individualities united under the banner of theatre and Europe, willing to work on our differences to understand what binds us together.**

What stands at the heart of our researches?

**EUROPE AS A CULTURAL ENTITY.**

If one can state the existence of Europe as an economic and political entity, what about Europe as a cultural entity?

It seems to us that this Europe is still in the process of being constructed and we consider this construction as a priority for the future of Europe.

Between us, **this construction is already on going**. For the moment, we are all scattered around Europe, but we are trying our best to overcome these frontiers, especially thanks to this essential tool that is internet: we write to each other, we share videos... English still remains the language we use in our common conversations, but we are seeking to overcome this language and find our own **common language**.

This common language we are trying to construct also stems from our experiences in the different master-class proposed by the UTE. To build ourselves, we borrow from our masters.

We convert obstacles into strength.

We firmly believe that **Europe identity is made of culture**. But what an impalpable concept is this notion of cultural identity when talking about Europe. This concept is both impossible to locate and difficult to seize because of its multiplicity.

**We want to explore on the ground, empirically this Europe of culture. We want to build it together. We want to make it real, concrete, tangible.**

**We have already chosen the space where we want this emergence to happen: *the theatre stage*.**

It will rise from our readings, discussions, researches on the stage, and it will finally come into life in the form of:

**a multilingual show, made of multiple languages,  
which we would take away for travel in different countries, first in Europe, then beyond,  
in order to truly experience this interpretation of cultural Europe.**

**Moving around this enactment of a European identity, from one stage to another, so to keep questioning it ever and ever.**

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**ISO THEATRE**  
**International Super Objective Theatre**

That's our name.  
What's ISO Theatre?

ISO stands for “International Super Objective Theatre”, after Stanislavski's concept, which was inspired to us by Lev Dodin, during our meeting in Saint Petersburg. The term “ISO”, which also means “equal”, refers to the international norm used to measure the surface of sensibility.

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