

**WORKCENTER OF
JERZY GROTOWSKI
AND
THOMAS RICHARDS**

Pontedera/Italy



ZERO BUDGET FESTIVAL

WROCLAW, OCTOBER 29 – NOVEMBER 12, 2009

What world do we live in?

What is our world?
What is my world?
What are its limits?

In this world, what, then, leads my actions?

We are an international group of actors, musicians, scholars, dancers, and above all, individuals, exploring the questions of human existence within the field of theater. We are looking for ways of relating to ourselves, to one another, and to our processes – ways that expand the possibilities of our actions in the human community, within a living universe.

Segmentation, fragmentation, privatization (whether in solitude or within a clan), and the consequent hardening and narrowing of perception, presence and action increasingly isolate living beings from one another and from their environments.

Creative processes are unavoidably influenced by their times and surroundings. At times, this can lead to a distortion of creative intent, especially when self interest, profit, or power come into play. This game of social forces requires constant dialogue between ourselves and society - a dialogue which shapes not only our daily relations but also greater social phenomena, often causing rigidity in our thoughts, bodies and perceptions. However, we believe it is possible for our creative processes to develop without corruption of their original intent.

We are seeking contact with people who are searching for something other than their own self-interest or profit. We need to come together, meet with others, and witness one another jump beyond simple monadic survival. We seek to create a focused gathering in which we can strive to understand the intentions that drive each participant's artwork or event. Under these circumstances, how can we face one another and touch the very matter of human life in our time and space? How can we be actively present in our surroundings, and not simply passive spectators of our times?

Zero Budget Festival proposes a crossroads in which people from different disciplines can meet on the basis of the intentions and realities of their work, rather than on the basis of how their discipline has come to be defined by society. The Festival aims to open contacts and to create a ground for understanding, both within and beyond professional and artistic borders.

Zero Budget Festival invites artists, scholars, and all those interested in actively approaching society, culture or the individual to propose creations, endeavors, and works in the spaces offered by the Festival. These groups and individuals are welcome to join a common striving to understand art as an act that emanates from a search for content and meaning. Zero Budget Festival is open to events not necessarily related to theatre, including poetry readings, music presentations, concerts, film projections, symposia and study groups. Zero Budget Festival also welcomes people involved in environmental, educational, health, or social work, as well as rural or urban development -- in short, all those seeking a living response to and relation with their times and surroundings.

The Festival will take place during the first two weeks of November 2009 in Wroclaw, with the support of Instytut Teatralny im. Zbigniewa Raszewskiego, in the frame of the third year of the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards's "Project Horizons" (2007-2009), which is supported by the City of Wroclaw and hosted by the Instytut im. Jerzego Grotowskiego.

During the Zero Budget Festival, the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards will also present part of its latest performing arts research, hold a retrospective of film documentations, and host the final conference of Project Horizons.

All artists, students, performers, musicians, poets, scholars, and others who wish to share their work and participate in the Festival should submit a proposal of the project they wish to present or realize by September 15th, 2009. The proposals should include a description of the project, the necessary means for its realization (i.e. kind of venue, number of participants, duration), as well as any particular details of the project that will clarify its nature. Proposals are not limited to performances but can include meetings, presentations, discourses, talks, lectures, conversations, etc.

We also look forward to hearing from those who wish to be involved in managing, organization and logistics, or helping out in any other way. Such persons are also asked to contact us by September 15, 2009.

All proposals and inquiries should be sent at the following email address: zerobudgetfestival@gmail.com.

The Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards