

CINEMA SESSIONS - Efterårssæsonen

Introduction

Cinema Sessions is a series dedicated to bringing together interdisciplinary improvisers. We started this session because we saw a great desire for interdisciplinary collaboration but no effective and organic training ground for this sort of work in the Copenhagen area. With a core of improvising musicians, our aim is to be the nexus of performance art development in Copenhagen traversing disciplines including music, dance/movement, live visual art (digital and analog), spoken word/poetry, etc. Our hope is that when artists meet from diverse communities, they can act in the spirit of cross-pollination and go forward with new collaborations and inspirations in their own projects. Through this creativity the community both of performers and audience is enriched through new innovation and artistic output. The audience can enjoy the unique and distinct interdisciplinary collaborations taking place at our sessions knowing that they serve as the primordial soup of future artistic endeavours.

Application Goals:

The core reason we are applying for this grant is to increase the sustainability of the project, namely so that the hired parties can be fairly paid for their work. So far we have set the cost of entry as an 50kr at the door so as to avoid putting up financial barriers to those wanting to come. Additionally, if one participates in the interdisciplinary jam session they are refunded their entrance fee as we are staunchly against pay-to-play formats. This has led to vibrant and thriving events however as a result, the performers at the beginning of the session, are not paid an industry rate. In addition to fairly paying emerging-improvisers (the majority of our performers thus far), this will make it possible for us to hire well-established improvisers from an older generation, a goal that we have had since the beginning of this session. Our reasoning for this goal is to promote intergenerational practice, something that could stand to happen much more in the improvised scene in Danmark in an organic and community focussed way.

Format

In the iterations of Cinema Sessions thus far, we have selected the performers based on a selected guiding criteria, those being: maintaining gender inclusivity and balance, selecting performers of diverse nationalities and cultural heritages, and of course, performers from multiple disciplinary backgrounds. The curation of the interdisciplinary jam session also aims to fulfill these goals.

The format of the sessions takes place in two parts. The first section of the evening is performances by our selected artists, one solo act at 20:00 and a trio/quartet at 20:30. These opening performances are meant to set the tone for the evening, attracting audience from normally distinct and separate artistic communities. So far this has

worked well with improvisers coming from dance, music, design, visual arts and poetry backgrounds.

The second part of the evening is an interdisciplinary jam session, which is at the core of Cinema Sessions. People in the audience raise their hand to join the next improvisation and the curators choose a constellation. The concept for this ad-hock's group is limited to one rule: the constellation of improvisers can only perform for 10 minutes. At the end of the 10 minutes, an applause is cued as a cheerful and encouraging method of ending this improvisation. The limitation of 10 minutes provides a simple structure to give this constellation direction and shape, and to avoid excessively long performances which might prevent some willing participants' inclusion. After a short break this process repeats itself. Per event there are roughly 5-7 of these 10 minute improvisations.

The Setting

The name of the project comes from the location where it takes place: the Biographen in Christianshavn Beboerhuset. This combination of red velvet chairs, projection screen, a cozy stage area, as well as speaker system and piano provides a perfect setting for an interdisciplinary cornucopia. Christianshavn lays quite centrally in Copenhagen in addition to being close to Holmen, the epicentre of arts-related schools in Copenhagen. Because Christianshavn Beboerhuset is an open minded culture house, its ease of access and fitting interior it acts as an ideal location for these Cinema Sessions. The 4 concerts that this application entails will take place on September 27, October 25, November 29 and December 13. We have carefully chosen these dates so as to not interfere with established series in the same aesthetic.

Reception Thus Far

The reception by the audience and participating members has been an overwhelmingly positive one. The performances that start the events have been cutting edge and creatively fascinating. Many of the hired improvisers were trying out new concepts for the first time which always brings an air of newness and risk; characteristics that truly exciting in this setting. The feeling inside of the interdisciplinary sessions has very much felt like a safe space where one can express themselves. People who do not normally participate in a given medium have been inspired to try something new; musicians dancing, dancers singing, pianists playing guitar for the first time, normal people singing folksongs from their own culture. There have been moments of excitement, intrigue, confusion, joy, anger, and so many other emotions that make up the human experience.

Technical Requirements

The technical requirements of these events have not exceeded the basic skills of the organizers thus far. That being said, efforts in making the session more sustainable would greatly free up the ability and smoothness with which the sessions are carried out. Employing a sound technician and general AV technician for the events would

greatly improve not only the sustainability of these events but also the quality of the live-sound and organization. Additionally Christianshavn Beboerhus does not have their own drum kit which has necessitated us carrying drums on the bus in order to facilitate the session. This is clearly not sustainable and is another expense that we are applying to fulfill.

Past Performers+Technical Support

February 13th

- Alba Liv Hansen (Danmark): modified CD players, sound art
- Lorenzo Colocci (Italy): flute, electronics+technical support+door
- Rémi Gouffault (France): drums
- PJ Fossum (Canada): Synthesizer, keyboard+host+technical support

March 16th

- Susana Nunes (Portugal): voice, electronics
- Kristin Wickstrøm (Norway): live digital video manipulation
- Cecilie Schou Grønbeck (Danmark): live painting
- PJ Fossum (Canada): electronics+host+technical support
- Giuseppe Calamia (Italy): prepared guitar
- Tomas Gubins (Chile): photography
- PJ Fossum: host+technical support+door
- Lorenzo Colocci: technical support

April 27th

- Sarah Buchner (Germany): voice, puppets, video
- Luka Zabrc (Slovenia): saxophone, objects
- Oscar Haug (Norway): trumpet
- Axel Filip (Argentina): drums, objects
- Torstein Slåen (Norway): guitar
- PJ Fossum: host+technical support+door
- Lorenzo Colocci: technical support