River//Cities conference Baltic Sea Cultural Center – Gdansk. Poland 22-23 march 2010

Arts, Democracy & Urban Re-invention

conference on rivers, citizenship and public space

Chris Torch

artistic director – Intercult, Stockholm, Sweden vice president – Culture Action Europe (the european forum for arts and heritage)





- Production and Resource Center since 1996. A hub for local, regional and international cultural action.
 Organises seminars and workshops. Creates coproductions. Arranges guest performances from abroad.
 Develops new audiences. Advocates progressive cultural policy.
- Since 2008, a national mission as The European Resource Center for Culture and a European Union mission as Europe Direct office in Sweden.

developing intercultural competence



challenges & dilemmas

International Outreach Intercultural Insight



Some burning issues ...

- privatisation of public space
 - access and shareholders
 - transparency of decisions
- arts & democracy: stimulating participation

WHAT IS THE CULTURAL FACTOR??

WHY ACCESS?

WHY RIVER?

Buildings and Spaces

- * cultural re-cycling
- * who owns Gdansk?
- * who accesses cultural heritage?
 - * whose heritage?

Rivers and riverbanks

- * open space
- * sustainable development
- * transportation and accessibility
- * clean water
- * arts and sports

WHY ART?

WHY CITY?



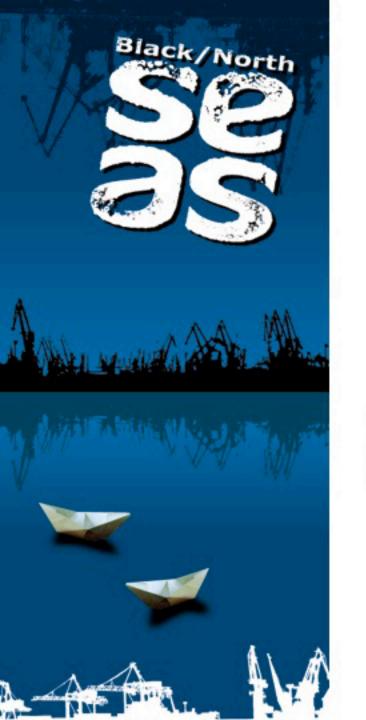
- Riverside development as target of EU investment
 - Cultural action <u>central</u> to creation of a constructive political and economic spirit
 - The Arts as motor for sustainable relations
 - Connecting Arts and Environmental issues

"RE-CREATING THE CIRCLE"

CULTURAL ECOLOGY



- Cultural Tourism
- Participation by/with citizens
- Riverside development future vision
- Engaging <u>private</u> sector & <u>civil society</u>
 in urban re-generation



SEAS a European platform

leading to ...

FOUR CORNERS OF EUROPE



Events

[Already realized]

2004

Klaipeda, Lithuania (july)
Kaliningrad/Svetlogorsk, Russia (july)
Liepaja, Latvia (august)
Gdansk, Poland (september)

2005

Ljubljana, Slovenia (december)

Rijeka, Croatia (june)
Koper, Slovenia (june)
Stockholm, Sweden (august)
Podgorica, Montenegro (september)
Udine, Italy (october)
Helsinki, Finland (november)

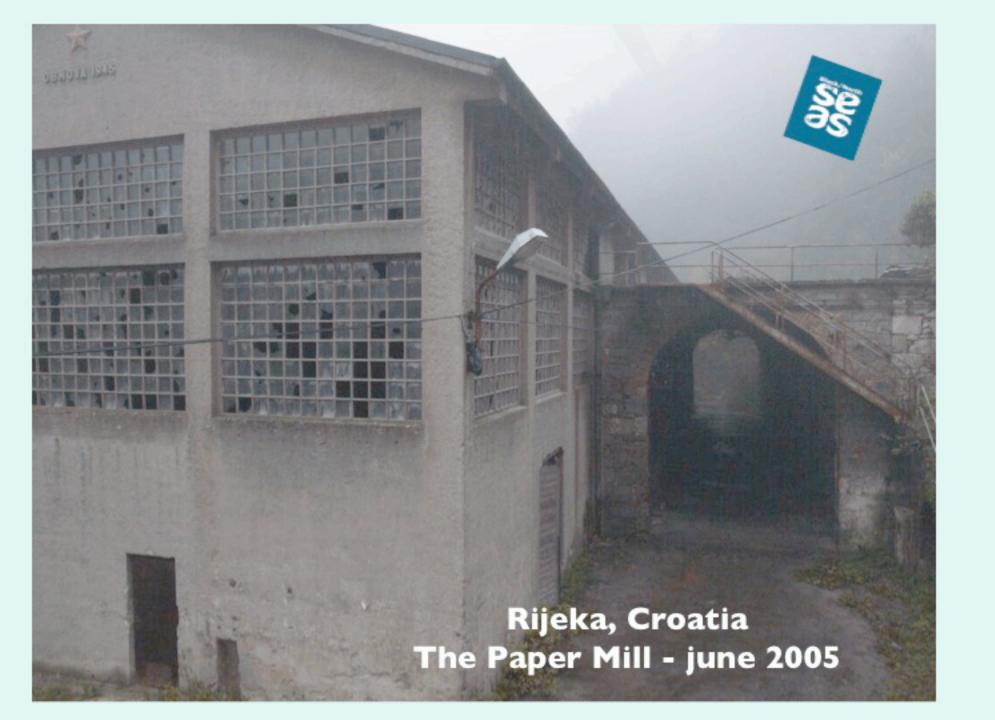


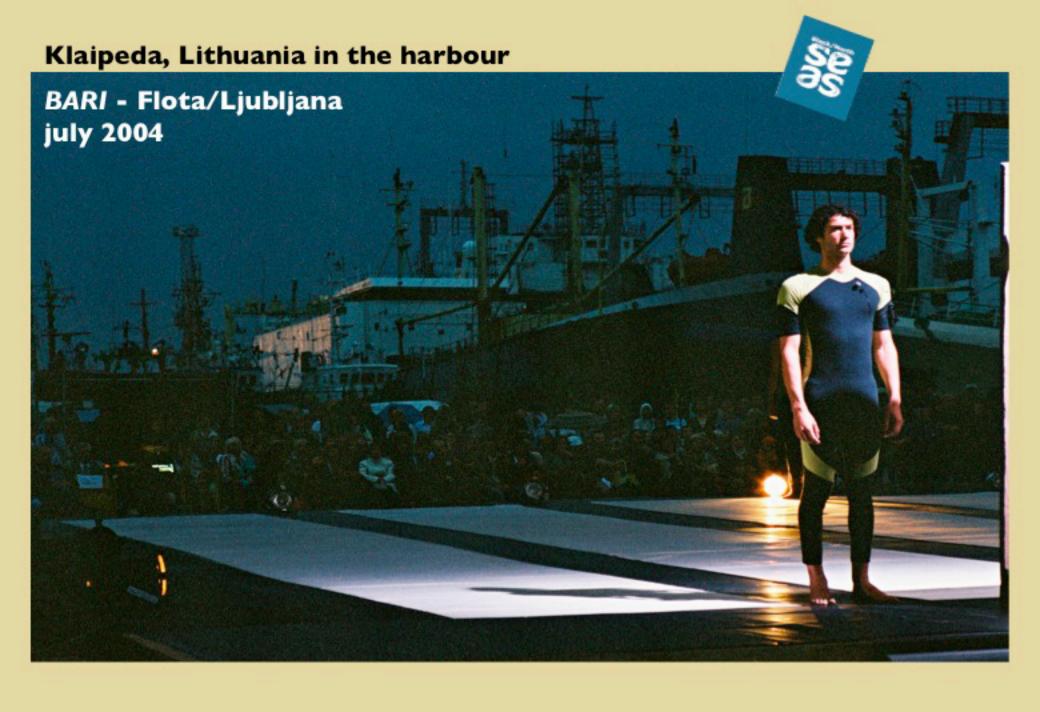


the shipyards in Gdansk, Poland - 2004















Black/North SEAS

2008

Odessa, Ukraine (may) Mangalia, Romania (june) Varna & Balchik, Bulgaria (june)



2009

Istanbul, Turkey (march)

Copenhagen, Denmark (august)

Helsingør, Denmark & Helsingborg, Sweden (august)

Göteborg, Sweden (august)

Tromsø, Norway (september)

Skegness/Lincolnshire, UK (sept-oct)



Constanta, Romania - september 2006 - SEAS



Research & Development "DATES"

 35 artists from 13 European countries participated in research travels to harbour cities around the Black and North seas, 2007-2008

PRODUCTION

- 15 co-productions (dance, theatre, installations, clubs) created 2007-2009.
- co-produced by local partners/institutions together with the SEAS platform ...





Gathering in Odessa, Ukraine april 2007



FANTOMAT (Sweden/Bulgaria) Odessa, Ukraina – maj 2008



BEER TOURISTS (The Netherlands) theatre group WUNDERBAUM



WAITING (Turkey) Tiyatro Oyunevi



Skegness/Lincolnshire UK

The Future: 2010 and on ...



Back to the Black Sea: SEAS X

- Two artistic expeditions with international artistic team
 - Istanbul to Batumi (september 2010)
 - Odessa to Kherson (october 2010)
- Formation of Black SEAS Cultural Platform, with cultural operators along the coasts.
- cooperation with Marseille 2013, Umeå 2014 and Riga 2014
 The Four Corners of Europe



Odessa Film Studios 2006

with generous support from and good partnerships with:













The Ministry of Culture - Romania
The Ministry of Culture - Bulgaria
Istanbul Foundation for Culture and The Arts - Turkey
The City and Region of Odessa - Ukraine
East Lindsey District Council & Skegness Town - UK
West Sweden Region and Göteborg City - Sweden

National Arts Councils in some Partner countries Municipal Arts Councils in some Host cities

www.intercult.se



www.culturebase.net

www.seas.se