

Internship Report, Claire Campbell

4th July- 4th September 2014

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This internship was organized on the basis of an Erasmus Grant. To be more specific the grant was called The Erasmus Mobility Scheme, especially set up for new graduates, wanting to further their education. This Erasmus scheme offers a monthly grant to a student for three months to support a work placement to work with/ alongside a theatre company within the EU. The amount given was dependant on which area of Europe you were studying. As it was France, I was in the higher band of money.

This European exchange programme was from Rose Bruford Drama School (London) and I had just graduated from the European Theatre Arts course. It covered travel, lodging, food expenses, and some left over to pay for participation tuition in workshops, etc. Pantheatre arranged for my presence and observation as exchange, as well as creating a Civil Insurance Certificate before my stay.

Pantheatre Workshops

Note : Pantheatre is directed by Enrique Pardo and Linda Wise, and includes a circle of collaborator-artists. It is the main performing company based at Malérargues, the Roy Hart International Centre; for definitions check <http://www.pantheatre.com/gb/1-roy-hart-gb.html>. Pantheatre is also based in Paris half the year.

Participated and observed

Myth & Theatre Festival (Malerargues) – 12 days full-time (workshops, lectures, performances, discussions.) 2014 theme : “DREAM(s)”

The Art of Interpretation (Malerargues) – 6 days advanced/professional singing songs with piano accompaniment.

Laboratory, Choreographic Theatre (DTM Studio, Paris) – 12 days – similar to Myth & Theatre Festival.

As well as the practical hours, performances, concerts and lectures took place during these events. These gave an academic insight into the work as well as being exposed to a range of artistic styles, work and artists through performances.

See <http://www.pantheatre.com/gb/2-MT-gb.html>

Private Voice/Singing Lessons – Kaya Anderson (these are arranged privately with Roy Hart voice teachers, outside of internship by approaching teachers.)

Other 6-day workshops in association with the Roy Hart Centre (participated and observed). For an idea on these, check www.roy-hart-theatre.com workshops presentation.

- Voice to Jazz improvisation
- The Voice-The Song
- From the Voice to the Song, From the Song to the Stage

It is key to mention that as these workshops are organized by the Roy Hart Centre, and not directly by Pantheatre, one must be delicate in the arrangement of these workshops. In some cases, I offered to assist during the workshops (e.g. running errands/helping with organisation) and

offered my services in anyway as a means of thanks (e.g. House cleaning or writing reviews). Before asking to observe workshops, one should check first with Enrique and Linda.

(Naturally, by observing workshops, one must be respectful and quiet.)

Tasks during the internship (mainly with Pantheatre)

Arranging Feedback forms

Arranging certificates

Setting up new Facebook page

Feedback on Website

Collecting writings through emails

(Emailing was a big medium for communication, not just with workshop participants but also with Enrique and Linda, even withing the context of Malérargues, which is a small village in fact.)

Transport:

Malerargues is extremely rural. To get there by public transport one must arrange to get the bus from Nimes to Thoiras, and arrange to be picked up by car.

If one needs to go food shopping, you must ask to grab a lift by car (better to buy food in bulk). If you are arriving in the afternoon, make sure you have food with you to eat that evening, the shops will be shut!

I also pre-booked my tickets from Nimes to Paris return, the same train times as Enrique and Linda.

Shopping in Malerargues:

Lasalle is the nearest village to Malerargues (10 minutes by car, 40 minutes to walk). Here there is a food store, pharmacy, cash machine and bakery. There is a weekly market every Monday too.

The main town is a little futher away (40 minute drive) called Alès. Nimes is one-hour away.

Montpellier a little further. Avignon (the July Festival) is one-hour and half away by car – reachable by bus and train.

Other Activities in Malerargues:

Beautiful nearby river in Lasalle (perfect for swimming)

Being in the hills of Southern France means you are exposed to beautiful walks.

Booking of practice studios (arranged at the Roy Hart office) to practice singing/piano (there are more than 7 studios with pianos at the Centre!)

Accommodation:

Malerargues – The accommodation at Malerargues was usually spent in the Gîtes (shared accommodation with shared kitchen and shared bathroom areas). Sometimes, due to limited spacing (especially July and August), it meant that some nights were spent in other houses or in the main residential Château. As an intern, you must be very flexible to move from room to room. Linda and Enrique always worked very hard to make sure I had somewhere to stay.

Paris lodging - This I arranged through airbnb.com. With a bit of pre-planning, there are quite cheap rooms near Studio DTM where Pantheatre is based in Paris.

Review:

My internship with Pantheatre was more than I could have hoped for. Linda and Enrique were always very supportive and generous. The staff and teachers in Malerargues and in Paris were also extremely friendly and helpful. Not only was I exposed to the artistic and teaching work of the company, but I was also given an insight into the business side/ function of the company. It gave me an understanding of the vast planning, hard work, flexibility and knowledge that goes into running a theatre company as successful as Pantheatre.

Pantheatre's work is known internationally and therefore I was given the chance to meet a range of different people from across the world. By being exposed to a range of different cultures, artists and people I have developed the skills in responsive communication, being able to work intuitively in a range of situations.

It has bettered me as an artist/performer, deepening my theoretical understanding, not only of theatre but of the arts in general. Pantheatre's artistic work is not something that can be understood in a fixed method as such. For example, I found the choreographic theatre lab was almost mercurial in its quality. I went into the lab with the overwhelming desire to be 'right'. To make an order of this 'dream' world I had found myself in. When being introduced to the 'leader follower' technique, I wanted to hide from the reflections of myself, following me around the room, yet simultaneously I wanted to cut through the space and steal the limelight. The fascination of this work is how one is exposed to oneself. My perception of the work changed dramatically throughout the course of the two months. The training kept me curious and alert, rather than trying to find the 'right' answer.

Both Linda and Enrique are intuitive in the way that they work, reacting instinctively to the given person or situation. As an intern, one must learn to be accommodating to the circumstances, have confidence in self-judgement, but also understand the balance of observing and taking a step back.