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THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS NEWSLETTER “COME AND GO”

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WHY THIS NEWSLETTER

“Come and go” is the International Relations and Study abroad newsletter which aims at keeping our readers up-to-date on the latest news and events related to our activities. It is published 4 times per year and reaches approx. 4,000 readers, in particular USI students, faculty and staff, incoming students and staff from our many partner universities and other collaborators. We do hope you will enjoy reading it!

INTERVIEW WITH ANGELA CALIA AND FELIX BAUMANN, STUDENTS AT ACCADEMIA TEATRO DIMITRI AND ESKAS SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS

Hi Angela/Felix, could you please introduce yourselves?

Angela: “I come from Italy and I’m 32 years old. I’m a dancer, choreographer and trainer.”

Felix: “I am a physical theatre actor, teacher and director. Currently I am studying in the master programme, at the Accademia Teatro Dimitri to deepen my research in this field. An important aspect of my work is the observation of everyday life. At the center of these observations is the human being - with their idiosyncrasies, insanities and contradictions. A further important layer of my practice is the use of humor and provocation to initiate the human development process.”

Why did you choose Accademia Teatro Dimitri?

Angela: “Because I was searching for a place where I could increase and integrate all my competences in dance and physical theatre, following a programme for professional dancer.”

Felix: “After my first theater experience in the end of high school, one theater director gave me the advice, to start with my studies at the Accademia Teatro Dimitri. Not least due to the school’s high profile belonging to physical theatre and clownery, but also because of the professional standard of education and the international networking opportunities, for future projects.”

How did the ESKAS Scholarship affect your life?

Angela: “It was a great opportunity to receive the ESKAS scholarship because this gave me the possibility to be fully concentrated in the studies and in my professional process, focusing all my energy in the path and feeling supported.”

Felix: “The main affect the ESKAS Scholarship had on my life, was the gain of quality time. Due to the regular income, I didn’t have to do different part-time jobs during the studies, as many others of my colleagues do. This freedom gave me the possibility to focus radically on my work as an artist and my research project in the master programme.”

Could you please describe the life of an artistic student?

Angela: “It is very intense, physically, emotionally and mentally. We have a regular training to follow in order to be always in good condition to dance and perform, and we have special intense courses, mostly one-two weeks, where we can learn about many different specific techniques in the fields of dance, physical theater, conscious movement, voice, acting, commedia dell’arte, clown, dramaturgy, history of theatre, theatre analysis and many



Angela Calia (right) performing DisAbility on Stage.

“The clown is an eternal searcher continually in pursuit of happiness, joy and innocence, a figure who, if the truth were a flower, would strongly resemble a collector of herbs. A clown is an eternal buffoon who, in his way, wishes to entertain people, make them laugh and give them a part of himself.”

Clown Dimitri



Felix Baumann on stage performing A Boat.

others. We are supposed to achieve a good general knowledge in all the fields and then go deep in what is our specialization.”

Felix: “In addition to the daily training in the various disciplines of physical theatre, belongs to the everyday life of an artistic student the constant confrontation with internal and external processes. This workload and confrontation forms later the language of the actor, which will be used to express his/her own perspective. Further important aspects are the ongoing creation of new material and the reflection and analysis of the current work and the own artistic position. Also, a constant specific research connected to the individual project and its management and organization are of importance.”

Could you please explain which are the main characteristics of the physical theatre? Are you currently working on a performance?

Angela: “The main characteristics consist in the research through the movement trying to achieve the goal of creating a physical language that can express what we want to say with our artistic process. It is a physical job, but requires also a lot of mental presence and emotional consciousness. Right now we are working on a performance with our teacher of dramaturgy and physical composition. This performance is about a text of Picasso, called “Desire caught by the tail” and it will be performed at Lac, in Lugano, the 12th of May.”

Felix: “The performance I am currently working on is inspired by great sailors’ destinies and the risk they faced throughout their travels, following the task of life - to find out who they are. At the same time, it is an homage to all outsiders, who took that risk, leaving behind societal conventions, looking for something that nobody can understand or tell them. Facing the paradoxicality of human life with a humorous angle is a fundamental motive of the work. Collecting things and stories, which old sailors left behind for us, as well as society leftovers, is one of the main parts of the work. Bringing these things together and transforming them on another level into a contemporary context is one main aspect of the production.”

What are your plans for the future?

Angela: “My plan is to go on with my personal research as an artist, go deep in my field of study and increase the aspect of artistic creation and production. I also would like to increase my research asking for a Phd programme in a European university.”

Felix: “My long-term vision is the foundation of an artistic platform, on the interface of theatre, dance & clownery. A platform, where different encounters, workshops and performances can happen. The first step for this is the foundation of an artistic collective, which will be the base of the international artistic and cultural center. The center will be open for different happenings, such as physical theatre workshops for people with and without physical and or mental disabilities, residencies of other artists, projects and performances on the interface of art and enfolding processes.”

DISCOVER TICINO: LOCARNO, VERSCIO AND THE ACCADEMIA TEATRO DIMITRI

The International Relations Service staff always feels very proud to be able to offer a day trip to exchange students spending a semester at USI, with the aim of discovering our region and its various place of interest. The richness of our region allows us to explore a different area each semester.

This time we enjoyed a visit to the city of Locarno and Teatro Dimitri in Verscio. This area has today a consolidated touristic vocation due to the natural beauty of the surroundings countryside, mountains and lakeside.



Locarno most famous square: "Piazza Grande".

Besides, the city of Locarno is famous also for its rich cultural offer and Piazza Grande square is well known for its annual film Festival taking place in the month of August, which attracts a lot of professionals, cinema enthusiasts and tourists, as well as for the more recent open air concert event "Moon and Stars".

Locarno and its region, developed around the lake, provide the perfect mix of culture, unspoilt nature and majestic mountains offering amazing views.

Thanks to our guide we were also able to visit some hidden small courtyards, while listening to interesting old stories about Locarno families and buildings as well as about political and social aspects of Canton Ticino.

During the previous two weeks, the city of Locarno has also hosted an artistic installation by Oppy De Bernardo, an artist living and working in Locarno, consisting of 6500 plastic lifebuoys completely covering Piazza Grande, with the aim to raise awareness about the global migration, one of the biggest emergencies of our times.

After visiting the city, we reached the small theatre "Teatro Dimitri" located in the village of Verscio. The theatre was founded in 1971 by Clown Dimitri, one of the world greatest mime artist and circus entertainer, and his beloved wife Gunda, that later became the "Scuola Teatro Dimitri".

Verscio is a small but lively and charming village featured by stone houses and old narrow stone streets and is today part of the countryside named "Terre di Pedemonte" together with Cavigliano and Tegna. The area lies at the entrance of the "Centovalli", literally "hundred valleys", so called because of the many small valleys converging there. The entire region, with its beautiful and authentic villages surrounded by lush forests and breathtaking sceneries is much appreciated by hikers and nature lovers as well as by families and people who love relaxing and swimming in the fresh and green water of the Valle Maggia river, another very popular place to visit in the area.



The group of exchange students on the Piccolo Teatro stage.

A small train operates through the valley, the Centovalli Railrail connecting Locarno with Domodossola in Italy, serving the transit traffic, being the most direct connection between the rail lines of the Gottard and the Simplon, as well as tourism, offering a unique and unforgettable journey experience itself.

Ticino born Clown Dimitri grew up in an artistic environment, as his parents were both performing as artists, as sculptor and painter the father, whereas the mother made pieces of arts out of textile remnants. At a very young age, Dimitri decided to become a Clown and pursuing this desire he studied in Paris, becoming after some years a worldwide known Clown. Dimitri was very well known and beloved for his artistic career as well as for his appreciated engagement towards the region. Clown Dimitri never stopped performing and died at the age of 80 in 2016. Three of the four children born in his marriage with Gunda have inherited his artistic talent and continue to entertain the public with amazing performances, in particular Nina who is specialized as a singer performing song recitals as a soloist, and Masha and David specialized as acrobat performers. His grandson Samuel, Nina's son, also studies at the Accademia Teatro Dimitri.



Students of the Accademia Teatro Dimitri and Centovallina train.

The cultural centre "Teatro Dimitri" is a small but vibrant and multicultural place, traditionally bound to its founding father art of clowning, the non verbal and burlesque theatre. It offers today a combination of tradition as well as a various and up to date cultural programme consisting in contemporary theatre, live concerts, family and childrens' programs.

Opened to the public in year 2000, the "Museo Comico" offers a collection of posters, photographs, musical instruments, objects, masks, sculpture, toys, clowns and elephants of every type. Close to it there is the Clown House, a

centre for humor, located in a Villa surrounded by a beautiful park featuring sculptures of various artists related to the clownish and ridiculous world.

The cultural centre hosts the “Accademia Teatro Dimitri”, a professional theater conservatory, affiliated to the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI) since 2006, which offers training programs in Theatre with specialization in physical theatre at Bachelor and Master level, a certificate of Advances Studies as well as courses and workshops open to the public for children and adults at different levels in different disciplines during summer time: dance, circus arts, clowning and theatrical improvisation. Read the interview with Angela Calia and Felix Baumann, students at Accademia Teatro Dimitri, in the first article of this newsletter.

For further information:

www.ascona-locarno.com

www.teatrodimitri.ch/

www.accademiadimitri.ch

DISCOVER A PARTNER UNIVERSITY: BURGUNDY SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS



Burgundy School of Business. (Courtesy of BSB)

We are proud to announce that USI can now offer a new destination in France. In the month of February USI signed a student exchange agreement with Burgundy School of Economics in Dijon. Up to 4 USI students at Bachelor or Master level enrolled at the Faculty of Economics have the chance to study in English or French. From our side, we are eager to welcome in Lugano the students from this new partner university.

We have asked our colleague, Ms. Judit Pawlowski, International Relations Manager, to briefly describe her institution.

“Founded in 1899, Burgundy School of Business - BSB belongs to the top 1% of business schools in the world to have received double AACSB and EQUIS accreditation.

BSB offers top-level Management training programmes to French and international students: Bachelor, Master in Management and postgraduate programmes designed for recent graduates or professionals.

BSB also offers particular expertise in areas relating to French excellence, namely wine management, via its internationally-reputed School of Wine & Spirits Business, and also arts and cultural management, for students seeking to transform a personal interest into their future career.

By joining the BSB Master in Management Grande Ecole programme, you are opting for an EQUIS and AACSB double-accredited degree for graduates with 5+ years of post-secondary study. You will also be joining a community of 13,000+ alumni across the world!

The international aspect of the school runs through all our study tracks, thereby enabling our students to fully comprehend the reality of a multi-cultural environment, which includes advanced language learning, expatriation abroad for either a semester or a full-year double degree, curricula taught 100% in English, international seminars, and the recruitment of international professors from renowned higher education institutions.

BSB is an international School of Management welcoming almost 500 international students every year:

- 1 student in 4 is international
- 66 nationalities represented on campus
- 36% of professors are international
- “Melting Potes” is the association in charge of helping international students settle in providing a host of opportunities to live an international life on a daily basis.”

The complete list of partner universities is available at:

<https://www.usi.ch/en/partner-universities-academic-mobility>



The new Learning Centre. (Courtesy of BSB)

STAFF WEEK IN PRAGUE



Czech Institute of Informatics, Robotics and Cybernetics.

In the frame of the staff mobility programme for training, Maurizia Ruinelli, collaborator of the International Relations Service, had the opportunity to attend the EAIE Academy at the Czech Technical University in the enchanting city of Prague.

The programme enables staff of higher education institutions to acquire knowledge or specific know-how from experiences and good practices as well as practical skills relevant for their current job and their professional development by undertaking a period of training at a higher education institution.

The EAIE Academy takes place twice a year in a different European city and it is one among the many learning and networking platforms of EAIE, the European Association for International Education. It offers in-depth courses in the internationalization of higher education intended for academic and non-academic professionals held by expert trainers in the international education. Here are Maurizia's impressions:

“I attended the course “Facilitating cultural learning in education abroad” in a class of about 20 advisors, professionals and experts coming from Europe and the US. The aim of the course was to give advisors working in an international frame, for instance international relations service and international academic programmes, awareness of how important it is to accompany students going on a mobility program in a host country (even if they have already visited it) with an appropriate intercultural training in the pre-departure phase as well as during and after their exchange period in order to make the most out of their study abroad in term of academic and personal experience.



Czech Technical University in Prague Central Library.

We learnt through research-based cultural learning models how an intercultural learning highly influences the development of the intercultural competences of exchange students while abroad and at the end of the study abroad experience, particularly if they are going to stay less than two years, as the length of the stay in the host country facilitates the process.

Besides the classes I had to opportunity to work in a small motivated group of participants to design a cultural training activity project in the frame of the pre-departure phase. The project has been developed in a way that can be easily adjusted, integrated and implemented and can serve as a model in each institution.

The staff mobility training experience totally met my expectation to immerse myself and structure my knowledge in the fascinating, dynamic and broad field of the institutions' internationalization process.”

To learn more about the EAIE Academy, visit: www.eaie.org

USI STUDENTS GO GLOBAL



81 USI students will spend a semester abroad during the academic year 2018/2019.

Over the years, the number of USI students who spend a period of study abroad has remained steady.

Now that the selection process of outgoing students who will spend next academic year abroad is completed we can affirm that the interest in a mobility experience is reconfirmed.

The number of submitted and accepted applications is 81. For some destinations the competition was tough, but we finally succeeded in accommodating almost all students.

Following the rules set by the selection committee, the transcript of records of the past exams sessions and the language certificates were considered for the selection.

The final result of the selection is the following: 23 students will spend a semester at another Swiss university, 48 will study at a partner university in Europe, and 10 will be hosted at international partner universities: 5 at Peking University HSBC Business School, 2 at the University of Technology in Sydney, 1 at the Universidade de Sao Paulo, 1 at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima and 1 at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics. We seize the opportunity to remind the students of the Lugano campus that the deadline to apply for a mobility programme during the Spring term is October 15. Please be reminded that places may be limited.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Informative session with Movetia about Erasmus+ cooperation projects

On March 1, in collaboration with SUPSI and Movetia, USI organised an information session on funding instruments for creating new partnerships and cooperation projects. The presentation was held by Ms. Maria Stergiou, Program Coordinator for Higher Education at the National Agency Movetia.



The informative session with Movetia took place at the USI Auditorium.

Along with the Erasmus+ funding measures «Strategic Partnerships» and «Knowledge Alliances», two newly created funding instruments by the Federal Council for the promotion of international cooperation and mobility in education have been presented.

With about 2.3 million CHF, the new 2018-2020 international programme supports and encourages cooperation with higher education institutions outside of the countries involved in Erasmus+, with the aim of fostering new opportunities and strengthening existing relations.

The two financial instruments available are the following:

1. Tertiary level international programme

Short-term courses (two to six weeks) in which students and faculty from Swiss universities develop and test innovative and multidisciplinary training opportunities with institutions in non-European countries.

2. Open project fund

Form, duration, structure, and type of activity are completely open. Projects involving different field and levels are also possible.

Application deadlines are respectively May 31, and June 22, 2018.

More information on the programmes and procedures are available on the site of the national agency movetia:

<https://www.movetia.ch/it/programmi/programma-di-mobilita-internazionale-extraeuropea/>

Call for Young Researchers' Exchange between Japan and Switzerland

In its function as the Swiss Leading House for Asia, ETH Zurich is happy to announce the launch of a new call for the exchange of young researchers (PhD students, young postdocs and master students in exceptional cases) between Japan and Switzerland together with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). The grants allow Swiss young scientists to spend 3-6 months of research in a Japanese partner laboratory or, vice-versa, Japanese scientists to perform 3-6 months of research in Switzerland; grants cover international travel and living allowance. The respective guidelines and application form can be found on the website:

<https://www.ethz.ch/en/the-eth-zurich/global/funding-opportunities/swiss-bilateral-programmes/Mobility.html>.

The call is open to all scientific disciplines including social sciences and humanities and to researchers from all Swiss universities, universities of applied sciences and research institutes.

Please observe that Japanese candidates will have to apply to JSPS. Deadline for applications is 20 May 2018.

Government scholarships for the academic year 2018-2020

The Scholarship Service of swissuniversities has the pleasure to inform that the call for applications for Government scholarships offered by more than 30 countries for the period 2018/2020 has been published on the website <https://www.swissuniversities.ch/en/services/scholarships-for-study-abroad/>

The type, duration and amount of a scholarship varies greatly from country to country. Scholarships are awarded for studies, research, specializations, teaching, art or language courses; the duration can last from few weeks to several years. Normally, a government scholarship covers the cost of living and studying in the host country. Information about the application procedure can be found in the call for applications of the host country in question. Among these opportunities, it is worth mentioning the Fulbright Program, the leading international educational exchange program funded by the U.S. Government for students, researchers and professors who wish to take part in projects of high international relevance.

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