



THÉÂTRE DE LIÈGE



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## Letters to the Future: Exploring Sexuality Education Through Writing

20 & 27 March, 3, 10, 17 & 24 April, 6, 7, 8 & 9 May, 2024 | Liège

*From 2023 to 2027, Collectif Novae is undertaking an extensive research project focused on Sexualities, particularly among young adults. This project aligns with their vision of theater as a tool for profound transformation and societal questioning.*

*These artistic activities will serve to:*

- Explore contemporary societal themes in depth and collaboratively
- Produce original and accessible narratives where multiple voices coexist
- Preserve the social fabric by bringing together, engaging, and mobilizing communities
- Reflect collectively on the future and impact of our artistic actions

The first step of this project is letter-writing workshops that have been offered to 3rd and 4th-year secondary students in Liège. Concurrently with this sociocultural project, a research residency for artists and experts on "Sexualities in Art Through History" has resulted in the presentation of a short-form performance during the festival *La Scène aux Citoyen.ne.s*.

## WORKSHOP CONTENT

### ***Preliminary workshop: Letter-Writing with 3rd and 4th-Year Secondary Students***

- *Introduction to the overall project, Collectif Novae, and the artistic approach.*
- *Presentation of the Scène aux Citoyen.ne.s project and the concept of civic action.*
- *Collective discussion on EVRAS (Sexuality Education) and defining its meaning.*
- *Writing anonymous letters to a peer from Liège, expressing personal views on relational, emotional, and sexual life, and making concrete requests for their future spokesperson.*

### ***Theater Workshop with Young People Aged 14 to 18***

- *Activities include collective discussions, improvisations, and guided writing exercises based on the letters from the previous workshop.*
- *Creation and rehearsal of a performance that reflects the opinions and aspirations of the participants.*
- *Public presentation of the performance at the Festival La Scène aux Citoyen.ne.s.*
- *Engagement with young ambassadors from Les Ambassadeurs d'Expression Citoyenne to support participants in public speaking and civic action.*

## BIOGRAPHY OF THE ARTISTS:

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### **COLLECTIF NOVAE**

**Collectif Novae was founded in 2009 and is co-directed by Tatjana Pessoa and Gabriel Da Costa. The company advocates for a theater that questions reality in all its complexity. It incorporates long-term research involving interactions with diverse populations into its creative processes. Collectif Novae is interested in ongoing experiments and collaborates with a wide range of experts, including both recognized academics and those with experiential expertise. Novae also actively engages with various communities by offering workshops to diverse groups such as unaccompanied minor migrants, women who have experienced domestic violence, and individuals with substance dependencies. In its theatrical productions, Collectif Novae involves non-professionals from the very beginning of the creation process through to its execution.**

### **TATJANA PESSOA: ACTRESS, DIRECTOR, AND PLAYWRIGHT OF HER OWN PRODUCTIONS**

**She was born in Belgium in 1981 to a Portuguese mother who grew up in Angola and a Swiss-German father. She initially trained at the Palais de la Culture in Abidjan (Ivory Coast) and at ESACT in Liège, before working as an assistant on numerous theatrical projects in Belgium, Germany, and Italy. She wrote and**

directed *Whatsafterbabel*, where she and a team of multilingual actors explore the relationship between languages and identities; *Lucien*, a children's show addressing Portuguese immigration; and *La bibliothèque de ma grand-mère*, an investigation based on traces left in the books of a private library. Her work is always rooted in reality, often using diaries as written material for the inquiries she conducts in her artistic practice.

### **GABRIEL DA COSTA: ACTOR AND DIRECTOR**

Franco-Portuguese, he moved to Brussels at the age of 18 to train in the performing arts at INSAS and has since worked in several European countries. His projects always reflect a strong commitment: as an actor, he has performed in productions such as *I Am Europe* by Falk Richter, which explores multiculturalism and diverse thought in an increasingly radicalized Europe, and the film *Even Lovers Get The Blues* by Laurent Micheli, where he portrays a Brussels-based character searching for his sexual identity. As a director, he creates documentary theater that addresses current issues, such as the pitfalls of digital technology or depression. In addition to his artistic work, he has been a trainer since 2017 with the youth organization *Les Ambassadeurs d'expression citoyenne*.

## **BIOGRAPHY OF THE EXPERTS:**

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**LOLA CLAVREUL: DIRECTOR, FEDERATION OF PLURALISTIC FAMILY PLANNING CENTERS / EVRAS EDUCATIONAL TOOLS**

**ELODIE LEDOUX: SECONDARY EDUCATION TEACHER / EDUCATIONAL ATTACHÉ AT O'YES - ORGANIZATION FOR YOUTH EDUCATION & SEXUALITY**

**ISABELLE DU CASTILLON: LAWYER / PSYCHOLOGIST / SEXOLOGIST**

**DELPHINE D'ELIA: PSYCHOPEDAGOGUE AND TRAINER IN INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION / CULTURAL MEDIATION - RELATION TO YOUTH, THÉÂTRE VARIA**

**LEILA FERRY: PHD CANDIDATE (FNRS) IN SOCIOLOGY - GENDER(S) AND SEXUALITY(S) / FEMINISM IN HETEROSEXUAL COUPLES**

**SÉBASTIEN HANESSE: PROJECT COORDINATOR / FACILITATOR, MAISON ARC EN CIEL DE LIÈGE**

**CAMILLE WARNIER: PSYCHOLOGIST - SPECIALIZATIONS: EXTREME POVERTY, PROSTITUTION, TRANS IDENTITIES, LGBT SPHERE, AND GENDER ISSUES**

**ZÉLIE SELS: FACILITATOR / TRAINER AT THE YOUTH ORGANIZATION LES AMBASSADEURS D'EXPRESSION CITOYENNE**

**UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) LINKED TO THE WORKSHOP**

