



MC93

MC
93
maison de la culture
de Seine-Saint-Denis
Bobigny

Focusing light, minimizing energy

5 September 2023 | Bobigny, France

WORKSHOP CONTENT

The aim of this workshop was to find a way to light a show while minimizing the use of energy. The first intuition was to go back to the way shows were lightened before the use of electricity.

The workshop gathered a specialist of the stage lighting from the XIXth century in France and a technical team of Light experts and builders from the Theater.

Pauline Noblecourt had immense knowledge to share as to how stage lighting worked in theatre before electricity. Her thesis covered the transition between stages that were fully enlightened with candles to new techniques with mirrors that allowed to focus the light on certain parts of the stage.

The artistic and technical team also shared their own knowledge of the stage and had thought about using lenses. Lenses were a big part of focusing light, for example in lighthouses (the Fresnel lenses were invented in the beginning of the XIXth century).

The other big question raised was the source of the light, what material should be burning? For example in the XIXth century a lot of whale oil was used in theatre (it smelled bad). It is not possible to use this anymore. The technical team had bought different types of candles and oils to show the different aspects of the light.

After the discussion Pauline Noblecourt provided (apart from her thesis) many documents from the XIXth century explaining lighting techniques : catalogues, patents, manufacturing manuals etc.

Following the workshop, the artistic and technical team chose to work with candle lights, focused using a parabolic shape of mirrors to direct the light.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE ARTISTS:

JÉRÉMIE PAPPIN - LIGHT DESIGNER

DAVID GESELSON - AUTHOR AND STAGE DIRECTOR

David Geselson wrote, directed, and performed in "Doreen" (2016), awarded the Best Creation in French Language in 2017 by the Syndicat de la Critique, based on "Letter to D." by André Gorz. He also created "En Route-Kaddish" (2014), "Lettres non-écrites" (2017), and "Neandertal" (2023). In 2020, he wrote and directed "Le silence et la peur."

Geselson directed Thibault Vinçon's "Eli Eli," Juan Mayorga's "Les Insomniaques," and Pauline Peyrade's "Poings" at Teatro Español in Madrid. In March 2024, as part of the European project STAGES and at the invitation of MC93, he will direct "Une pièce pour les vivant·e·x·s en temps d'extinction." In the 25.26 season, he will direct his first opera, "La Bohème," at the invitation of the Opéra de Nancy.

His novel "Lettres non-écrites," published by Le Tripode in March 2021, won the 2022 Revelation of the First Novel award from the Société des Gens de Lettres. His other plays are published by Lieux-Dits.

As an actor, Geselson worked with Tiago Rodrigues in "Chœur des amants," premiered in September 2021, played in Anton Tchekhov's "La Cerisaie" at the Avignon Festival 2021, and participated in "Bovary," created in 2016 at Théâtre de la Bastille.

He received training at the Ecole du Théâtre national de Chaillot, the Ecole de théâtre "Les Enfants Terribles," and the Conservatoire National Supérieur d'Art Dramatique. In various theater productions, he collaborated with directors such as Brigitte Jaques, Cécile Garcia-Fogel, Gilles Cohen, David Girondin-Moab, Muriel Trembleau, Christophe Rauck, Gabriel Dufay, Jean-Pierre Vincent, and Volodia Serre.

In the film and television industry, Geselson worked with directors Elie Wajeman in "Alyah" and "Les Anarchistes" (Director's Fortnight - Cannes 2012 and Critics' Week - Cannes 2015), François Ozon in "Grâce à Dieu," Isabelle Czajka in "La Vie Domestique," Olivier de Plas in "QI," Rodolphe Tissot in "Ainsi-soit-il" seasons 2 and 3, Vincent Garang in "l'Enquête," and in short films by Muriel Cravatte, Antonin Peretjatko, Marie Donnio, and Etienne Labroue.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE EXPERTS:

PAULINE NOBLECOURT

Pauline Noblecourt is a graduate of the Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS Lyon) and the Ecole Nationale des Arts et Techniques du Théâtre (Master Écriture Dramatique). She is a specialist in the history of theatre, with a particular interest in the links between dramatic texts and stage techniques, and her thesis was devoted to focused light in nineteenth-century Parisian shows.

CHRISTOPHE MALLEIN

Christophe Mallein is the technical director of the MC93 and has been in charge of the lighting department at the Festival d'Avignon for 15 years.

MAURIZIO MORETTI

Maurizio Moretti is head of the set construction of the MC93 and received training as aeronautical engineer.

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

