

DOCUMENTATION



PASSAGE FESTIVAL

INTERNATIONAL
STREET THEATRE

HELSINGØR • HELSINGBORG

27 JULY
- 1 AUG
2020

www.passagefestival.nu

PASSAGE Festival was one of the only international street theatre festivals in Europe to be realized in 2020

We never doubted that PASSAGE Festival was going to happen in 2020. However, there is no question that it's been a very different festival than the one we had intended and planned for up to the early spring of 2020.

Originally, the festival was to host large-scale public performances, designed to attract thousands of people; this was in celebration of the ten year anniversary of the city's investment in a new arts venue, The Culture Yard, as well as the regeneration of the harbour area into a cultural hub.

We missed that. In its place, however, we realized we had the opportunity to explore new places – areas we'd never been before – together with international artists.

The programme was spread out both geographically and over the week to accommodate restrictions. It ran from 27th July – 1st August and the festival moved away from city-centered, largescale and spectacular performances and instead took place in the outskirts of the city and its surrounding nature, forests, fields and beaches. In the end, many artistst and performances shared a mindset of quiet reflection, creating a festival that addressed the reality created by the new coronavirus.

The move into new and smaller local contexts enabled us to engage even more with local organizations, institutions and individuals, who kindly shared their spaces for public performances. In turn, we received great support and found that our audiences were supportive of the new framework, happily moving from one city to the next, to housing areas, forests and local garden associations.

The festival still managed to take place in public, and without too many inhibitive restrictions. There were, of course, limits to audience numbers, lots of hand sanitizer and cleaning before and after. But as a festival, we made our audience's responsibilities clear, asking them to take part in safe distancing and sensible behavior. A few performances, however, were not open to the public – specifically those which entertained our elder citizens at nursing homes, creating a much-needed breath of fresh air for the residents.

PASSAGE also created a digital trail, joining **with SO Festival of Skegness Lincolnshire** to present various activities designed for audience participation from home. Amongst these was **SO many roads: How will European street theatre festivals look in the future?**; an online discussion with leading festival directors across Europe and representatives from the official Arts funding systems in both UK and Denmark.

As a street theatre festival, presenting art in public spaces, we must adjust to the changes in society. Of course, we do this all the time, and every time something unexpected happens. 2020 was no exception. But the great privilege of being a festival for outdoor arts is a freedom to change the rules of the game alongside society. In fact, we have an obligation to do so in order to avoid getting caught up in our own success, focusing instead on the framework we provide for artists to be able to present their work.

PASSAGE b y p a s s was thought out on this basis: To give artists the opportunity to work and present in a public space, including work-in-progress. **b y p a s s will continue until 30th June 2021, as will PASSAGE Festival, in order to accommodate a lot more of the performances we couldn't fit in our traditional time period this year.**



FREE WATT by 1Watt (FR)
in Hellebæk Kohave



Street theatre in nature settings

French performance group 1Watt has a longstanding tradition of developing site-specific performances for urban environments, in cities and streets and amongst citizens of numerous European countries. This year, they took their artistic toolbox and moved from the city out into nature – as we all have done this year. The result was **FREE WATT**, a performance that interacted with both the natural forest and fields of Hellebæk, north of Helsingør. Together, performers and audience moved through the landscape in new and different ways, where improvisation, musical exploration and urban elements both clashed and worked together with nature.

In the days that followed, 1Watt returned to their “natural habitat”, performing improvisations as a trio, in **THE FURTIVES**, and in solo performance for **PARFAIT ÉTAT DE MARCHE**, both in the inner city of Elsinore.

**PARFAIT ÉTAT DE
MARCHE** by 1Watt
(FR) in Helsingør
city





Street theatre in nature settings

In collaboration with **Dansehallerne** in Copenhagen, PASSAGE Festival invited Norwegian choreographer Ingri Fixdal to create the site-specific **DIORAMA — for Helsingør** at Julebæk Beach. Through her choreographic lens, Fixdal reflected on the slow change of a landscape, as 12 dancers and a number of odd objects interfered with the beach as we know it. The audience were invited to ponder the slow transformation of dancers, objects and landscapes at the water's edge, with Sweden as a backdrop. After the two performances at PASSAGE Festival, Ingri Fixdal moved on to the capital to create **DIORAMA — for Copenhagen**, presented by Dansehallerne.

DIORAMA — FOR HELSINGØR by Ingri
Fiksdal (NO) at Julebæk Strand

GLiMT (DK) performing
CameliOrchestra at
the residential area
Hellebo Park



New communities created in collaboration with locals

As a means to secure a wide geographical spread of performances, PASSAGE Festival reached out to local citizens, institutions and others who might be interested in hosting a performance where they lived, worked or otherwise knew. This led to public performances at completely new venues, thanks to the locals' assistance and accommodation.

TEATRET KRISKAT (DK)
Performing OH SOLO ME
at Børnenes Hus
(The Childrens House),
that provides the physical
framework for a number of civil
society organizations, working
i.a. to secure childrens access
to communities with other
children.



ALEX BARTI (DK/MK) performing at Birkebo Nursing Home



New communities created in collaboration with locals

Spreading out the programme also drew people to places they had never visited and created new meetings and common experiences – the basis for stronger local communities at the Northwest part of Helsingør, Børnenes Hus, Kvistgård Haveforening, Jarlens Grund, at nursing homes and more. In Helsingør, for example, the social outreach project 'Gang i Nordvest' initiated workshops with many participants before and after performances.



Les Goulus (FR) performing
THE HORSEMEN at Jarlens Grund
in Espergærde

CIRCUS WORKSHOP
with Kasper Jensen (DK)
in the North West area
of Helsingør



b y p a s s

PASSAGE b y p a s s is a new platform, created to give artists a chance to develop and perform their work during hard circumstances this year. Selected artists were given the opportunity to experiment with formats of art in public space and present work-in-progress during the festival in July/August. **b y p a s s** will continue to work as a platform up until June 30th 2021 for various artists and projects.

BY THE WALL BARS by Convoi Exceptionnel (DK)

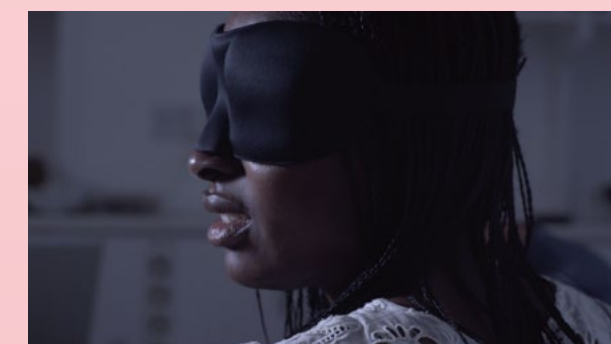
PASSAGE Festival 2020 had planned to premiere part one of "Trilogy for educational spaces" by Convoi Exceptionnel. However, with an international team of collaborators from Hong Kong, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, the trilogy has had to be postponed until 2021-2023. Instead, artistic director Jon Skulberg created a prelude to the trilogy called **By the Wall Bars – Echo from a School**. A spatial poem of images created under current circumstances in the old Helsingør Gymnasium gymnastics hall, this allowed us to involve yet another unconventional public space in the festival.

CAMELIORQUESTRA by GLiMT (DK)



INSTANT COMPOSITIONS by Copenhagen International Arts Collective (DK)

A series of improvisational dance workshops held in public spaces during the lockdown this spring, lead to the creation of this new collective. At PASSAGE, they placed an instant choreographic footprint in both space and time at the Culture Harbour.



REMOTE ROOM by ROOM Collective (DK/UK/SG)

Immersive digital project. Read more on page 13



SLABAM by Volantes (DK)
As a last-minute rescue, due to programme changes, Volantes created a new show over the course of just a few days, performing an entertaining and skilled acrobatic show. Volantes represents a new generation of highly skilled, high-energy performers.

b y p a s s



Combining circus, live music, dance and physical theatre, **CameliOrchestra** is an ongoing work-in-progress that adapts itself to venues as diverse as Nøjsomhed, a social housing complex, several nursing homes and a “traditional” full-scale venue.

EVERYDAY PEOPLE by Society of Labyrinthian Anarchaeology (DK)
This artistic experiment resulted in a situationist walk through the northern part of Helsingør, redefining urban spaces and creating new memories through rituals. The experiment took the audience on a trip through back alleys of abandoned buildings, trails along sporting grounds, the local Sthens Church and more.



More performances at PASSAGE 2020



THE FLOOD by Kunstnerkollektivet VonTrapp (DK)

The Flood played out both above and in the old dry dock, part of the old shipyard in Helsingør, that now houses M/S Maritime Museum of Denmark.

The audience numbers were more than tripled for every performance, since passers by would stop and watch from above.



DRÔLE D'IMPRESSION by Dedale de Clown (FR)



SightSEAing
by Luna Park
Scenekunst (DK)
Sitespecific walk
through the city's
maritime DNA.



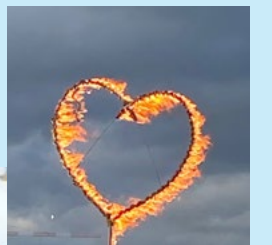
**TIME TRAVEL
TOURS with
Liminal (DK)**
A time travel
by bus, adapted
specifically to
Helsingør and
six carefully
selected spots.

PIXLA PIREN – Helsingborg

Also the Swedish side of PASSAGE Festival found a way to present a festival format: Scaled down and centered at Helsingborg city's old harbour area, now a creative hub for outdoor activities, the festival presented two full and intense days of family oriented performances and workshops.

"The festival presented more intimate performances and other activities this year, and we were confirmed, that street theatre is a flexible and suitable format, that can adapt to any given circumstance, thus still providing us with the opportunity to have a sense of community and share common cultural experiences for all ages"

Christel Molin, project manager of PASSAGE Festival in Helsingborg.



Circus workshop by Kompani Hint + Anchors Away by SOJ + Unplugged by Johan Wellton + Fire show by Paradiso + One Moment by Rumiko Otsuka + The Insect Orchestra by Teater Sagohuset + No Music by Coki Visions + Magic and Bubble Mingling by Rasmus Wurm



Roundabout Europe: The Boat

Five European festivals have joined forces since 2017, supporting and revitalising outdoor arts with a circuit of residencies and support for professional creatives. PASSAGE is one of these partner festivals and was able to welcome the Slovenian-based **Third Hand Group** as planned. During their two-week residency, they developed their performance **THE BOAT**, receiving professional coaching and presenting several performances in various public settings, such as social housing areas and in the inner city. Since this year's schedule has been mostly cancelled, Roundabout Europe will extend its work, carrying out the cancelled performances and residencies in 2021. Roundabout Europe is supported by the European Union's Creative Europe programme.



Digital and international collaborations

For three years, Helsingør Teater and PASSAGE Festival have held the artistic direction of the English street theatre festival SO Festival in Skegness, Lincolnshire. This year, the festival's physical format was replaced by SOfa Fest: a digital version, which reached both a Danish and an English audience with streamed performances as well as participatory activities. SOfa Fest was broadcast live 1st – 2nd August through SO Festival channels, and 22nd – 23rd August through PASSAGE Festival.

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL connected artists from Helsingør, Helsingborg and Lincolnshire in online network-based meetings, while inhabitants of the towns embarked on a letter exchange led by community-based project **ENVELOPE/BREV**, initiated by **Vessel Projects (UK)**, in which participants drew & exchanged their experiences of life under lockdown on an envelope.

None of this would have happened, were it not for our dedicated and skilled colleagues from **Magna Vitae Trust for Leisure & Culture**. A sincere thank you also to the **local Lincolnshire artists**, for creating such engaging content for all ages.

SOfa Fest was supported by Magna Vitae, Arts Council England, East Lindsey District Council, British Council, PASSAGE Festival, Helsingør Teater, Without Walls Associate Touring Network, Metro Boulot Dodo & Rural Media.

THE FULL SOFA FEST PROGRAMME: [PASSAGEFESTIVAL.NU/EN/SOFA-PROGRAMME/](https://passagefestival.nu/en/sofa-programme/)

WEBINAR: SO MANY ROADS was an online discussion with leading festival directors across Europe and representatives from the official Arts funding systems in both UK and Denmark, debating the future possibilities, challenges and obligations of European street theatre festivals. Moderated by **Lucy Medlycott**, director at **ISACS**, and joined by panel members such as **Catherine Mitchell**, Arts Council England's National Director for Combined Arts and **Lars Seeberg**, head of the Stage Arts of Danish Arts Council.

SEE MORE: passagefestival.nu/en/so-many-roads-eng

ARTISTIC COLLABORATION: REMOTE ROOM BY ROOM COLLECTIVE (INT) was a one-person performance set in cyberspace. An audience member was cast alongside performers in London and Singapore and immersed in a fiction set on the computer screen. Remote ROOM was performed in Helsingør on 1st August and in Skegness on 22nd August.

Press + Social Media

Media coverage in 2020 has been far and wide in terms of outlets, content, and form. Both local and nationwide newspapers have covered the festival.

Not only in the sometimes short-lived world of publicity or reviews, but also through in-depth articles, background stories and interviews, adding a new and profound perspective to the making – and makers – of the festival. Amongst these were **Information**, **Politiken** and **Iscene.dk**. The latter as part of a wide-reaching media collaboration. Some performances premiered well before the festival both in Helsingør and Copenhagen, thus creating a spill-over effect in the media creating even more attention. In Helsingborg, the **HX Festival** did a live stream from performances at Pixla Piren, while **PASSAGE** will be featured in the September issue of the national dance magazine **Danstidningen**.

PASSAGE Festival was also featured three times on national radio this year. The culture programme **Kulturen på P1** interviewed artistic leader, Jens Frimann Hansen, in a discussion of the conditions, possibilities and obligations that lie in the format street theatre festivals. Through the collaboration between the **Municipality of Helsingør** and **Wonderful Copenhagen**, the festival joined a national campaign to boost national tourism. Finally, several **influencers**, both local as well as **Anders Hemmingsen** (one of Denmark's largest and most followed accounts), shared both personal and anonymous stories from experiences at **PASSAGE** Festival.

Since announcing that the festival would still take place despite the challenges we faced in the early summer, our **FACEBOOK** site engaged with users more than **16,000 times**, reaching over **1,250,000 users** and growing our follower-base by 10 %.

We also initiated a round of **INSTAGRAM-TAKEOVERS** in advance of the festival, in which our artists posted behind-the-scenes material during the preparation and rehearsal stages; this enabled them to reach their own personal and professional networks as well as **PASSAGE**'s, shining a light on their creative processes for all to see.



PASSAGE FESTIVAL IS SUPPORTED BY AND COLLABORATES WITH:

Statens Kunstfond, Helsingør Kommune, Helsingborgs stad, Roundabout Europe, The Creative Europe programme of The European Union, Magna Vitae, SO Festival, Gang i Nordvest, Kulturhus Syd, Vapnagaard, Nøjsomhed, Boliggården, Kulturhuset Bølgen, Hotel Hornbækhus, Hornbæk Bibliotek and various organizations in Hornbæk, Espergærde Centret, Kulturværftet og Toldkammeret, M/S Maritime Museum of Denmark, FGU Øresund, Höganäs kommun, Roskilde Teater & Iscene.dk



OUR SPECIAL THANKS GO OUT TO:

Birkebo Plejehjem, Montebello Plejehjem, Falkenberg Plejehjem, Plejehjemmet Strandhøj, Tibberupparken, Ellekildehave and Hellebo Park, who opened their doors for performances, Børnenes Hus, who created a social community around street theatre, Haveforeningen Kvistgård, who took in three crazy French horsemen, Nyrup Børnehus and Børnehuset Sommerlyst, who were great hosts, Espergærde Amatørscene, who aided Les Goulus in their total takeover of Jarlens Grund, Gefionsbakken, who opened their garden area to us, Helsingør Gymnasium, for letting artists experiment with learning spaces in their gym and The Danish Nature Agency.

ALL the volunteers, who make the wheels go round! This year a special thanks to the students from **FGU Øresund**, who spent the last part of their holiday building signs and managing audiences in Helsingør!

And to **STARK** – for providing us with all the crucial stuff that makes a festival possible.

LINKS

PASSAGE photos: [flickr.com/photos/passagefestival](https://www.flickr.com/photos/passagefestival)
PASSAGE videos: [vimeo.com/helsingorteater](https://www.vimeo.com/helsingorteater)

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