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

*The* [*PASSAGE Festival 2020 documentation folder*](https://passagefestival.nu/en/archive/passage-festival-2020/) *gives an insigt into how the festival moved away from city-centered, largescale and spectacular performances and into the surrounding nature and outskirts of the city with performances that shared a mindset of quiet reflection, addressing the reality created by the new coronavirus.*

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 both Danish and international artists.

The programme was spread out both geographically and over the week to accommodate restrictions. From 27th July – 1st August, 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 artists and performances shared a mindset of quiet reflection, creating a festival that addressed the reality created by the new coronavirus.

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 our audience had a part of the responsibility as well, with safe distancing and sensible behavior.

Those performances which entertained our elder citizens at nursing homes were not open to the public.

A digital trail was created, joining with [SO Festival](https://www.sofestival.org/) of Skegness, Lincolnshire (UK) 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?](https://passagefestival.nu/en/so-many-roads-eng/); an online discussion with leading festival directors across Europe and representatives from the official Arts funding systems in both UK and Denmark.

PASSAGE managed to go through with one of the two scheduled [Roundabout Europe](https://passagefestival.nu/en/roundabout-europe-eng/) projects, providing Third Hand Group (SL) with a residency, professional coaching and public performances during the developing phase of [The Boat](https://passagefestival.nu/en/performance/the-boat-eng/).

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](https://passagefestival.nu/en/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.

PASSAGE Festival – international street theatre Helsingør + Helsingborg is organized by Helsingør Theatre (DK) and Dunkers kulturhus (SWE) and is supported by the Danish Arts Foundation, The Municipalities of Helsingør + Helsingborg and The Creative Europe programme of The European Union through Roundabout Europe (2017-2021) and People Power Partnership projects (2020-2024)

PASSAGE Festival is the artistic director of SO Festival, Skegness, (UK), collaborating with organizer Magna Vitae Trust for Leisure & Culture

PASSAGE Festival collaborates with a number of local, regional and national organizations in Denmark and Sweden.

LINKS:

[DOWNLOAD PASSAGE FESTIVAL 2020 DOCUMENTATION](https://passagefestival.nu/en/archive/passage-festival-2020/) -in your preferred format

[READ AT ISSUU.COM](https://issuu.com/helsingor_teater/docs/passage_festival_2020_-_documentation__single_page)

[www.passagefestival.nu](http://www.passagefestival.nu)

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