

ECITE (European Contact Improvisation Teachers Exchange) 2001, 27.7. – 4.8.2001 Berne

This years ECITE took place in Berne in a recently renovated old steam factory called Dampfzentrale. It is the place where all the contemporary dance pieces are shown in Berne. We were very lucky to get the whole theater complex: two big theater halls connected with a nice foyer, a bar and a dance studio. The atmosphere of the place was very supportive to deepen the contact with old friends and to get in touch with new colleagues.

We started with a big, international Jam. We were a hundred and twenty dancers from twenty different countries spending three days together in an open Jam structure. As organisers we decided to have the jam in the beginning of the conference for two reasons: First we wanted the conference participants to have an easy arrival with a lot of dancing and unstructured time to make the transition into the conference. We experienced in previous years that people arrived quite exhausted. Second we wanted local people and non teaching dancers to share some days with this big international ECITE-Community.

The conference itself started July 29th with a slightly new structure, the result of discussions and inquiries made in Budapest at the previous conference: as usual co-teaching groups met in the morning but in the afternoon (instead of study labs changing daily) we offered topics for the projects : performance, video, mixed abilities, body work, outdoor. A project lasted four afternoons. People subscribed to a project in advance. Each project was facilitated but not lead by two participants of ECITE. A written contribution - a favorite exercise, an improvisation structure, a score, skills, philosophical reflections or personal experiences - handed in before the conference also helped to deepen the study and the exchange on the form of CI. We collected all the papers in a conference reader. During ECITE we had three public performances to show and share the work.

ECITE is documented on our web page: www.contactimprovisation.ch