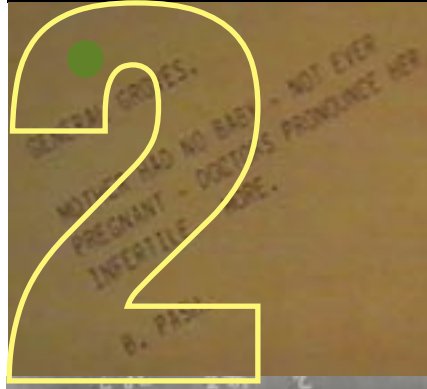


EU Culture 2000 programme
KTH, the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm-Sweden
Klesidrateatro, a theatre company based in Rome-Italy
Conora Europa, a cross-cultural media company based in Rome-Italy
And LittleFisch films, a film production company based in London-England

Graphic Design: Maria Malinqvist



Could FAUST “Disinvent” the A-bomb?



Could Faust ‘Dis-invent’ the Atomic bomb?

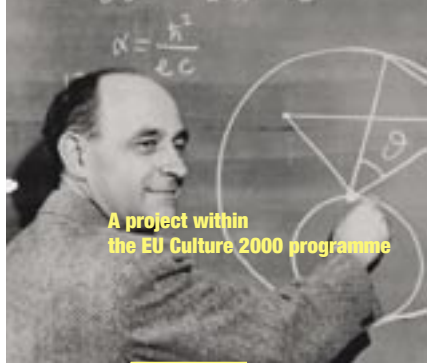
Science has consequences. What led men devoted to research and science to dedicate the best years of their life to the invention and the construction of the atomic bomb?

The theme of the project: questions and views regarding the ‘social responsibility of the scientist’, the social responsibility of oneself to others and each individual’s responsibility to the future were approached by the following four European partners in very different ways.

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Their collaboration resulted in various events, which took place November 2005 - October 2006.

- A play entitled ‘Faust in Hiroshima’ was performed in Italy and Stockholm
- Filmed interviews of Nobel peace Laureates and activists were made during the 6th Nobel peace prize summit in Rome.
- A panel discussion was held with panellists from various backgrounds such as visual art, politics, journalism, history, peace campaigners and organisations who work with Nobel Laureates across the globe.
- Finally work by the European partners in elderly centres as well as schools in Sweden, Italy and the UK was disseminated at an event and in other forms.
- Raise public awareness of the consequences of scientific choices, starting from the Pugwash movement. Influence, especially, young people and initiate a debate to be the foundation for a pan-European network.



A project within the EU Culture 2000 programme

The play

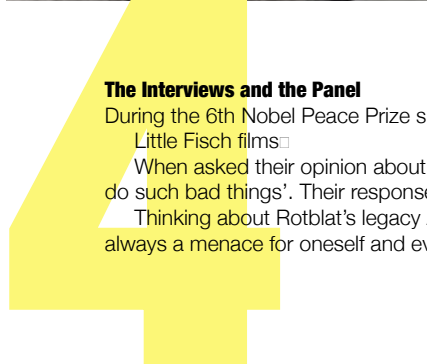
From an original idea by Riccardo Antonini the play Faust in Hiroshima was an integral part of the project. The production had its premiere on the 31st of January 2006 in Stockholm.

Written with Gianni Guardigli and directed by Imogen Kusch, Klesidrateatro explores Goethe’s Faust as an analogy for the scientist and his creation.

In 2004 the late scientist and Nobel Peace Laureate Sir Joseph Rotblat gave a personal interview to Klesidrateatro and Little Fisch films.

Faust in Hiroshima focuses on the scientist’s responsibility within the development of the atomic bomb, inspired by Rotblat’s personal eyewitness accounts during his period at Los Alamos. It is an adaptation of the interviews conducted by Klesidra and Little Fisch films with Sir Joseph Rotblat and extracts of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe’s Faust Part I and Part II.

Rotblat was one of the last survivors of the scientists involved in the Manhattan Project. He decided to leave Los Alamos when he realized the project’s inherent dangers. The play takes Goethe’s work into the scientists’ confines within the Los Alamos. It refers to the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as two historical events from the past with consequences and direct links to the present and the future.



The Interviews and the Panel

During the 6th Nobel Peace Prize summit in Rome a ceremony commemorating the life and work of Sir Joseph Rotblat took place.

Little Fisch films

When asked their opinion about Joseph Rotblat’s statements such as ‘Man is intrinsically good, it is circumstances which made make him aggressive and do such bad things’. Their responses were both varied and thought provoking.

Thinking about Rotblat’s legacy Adolfo Perez Esquivel made the following conclusion: ‘No army ever guarantees peace. To have the atomic bomb is always a menace for oneself and everyone else.’

About the future, the poet and Nobel Laureate Rigoberta Menchu Tum says: ‘I’m worried about the immobility of society in general. Society in the world is ‘depressed’. It doesn’t protest, it doesn’t fight, it doesn’t criticize. But I think that this fear has to be broken and that people like Mr Rotblat left us a big legacy, a coherent example of fighting after so many years of living in this world.’

Other personalities and Laureates that were interviewed or took part in the Panel Discussion at the Goethe Institute London in March 2006 included Betty Williams, former weapons inspector Rolf Ekéus, Bob Geldof, the journalist and writer Stefania Maurizi, Prof Robert Hinde, the artist Claus Miller and Sally Milne who runs Pugwash, the organisation of Conferences on Science and World affairs, an institution in which Rotblat and other notable scientists addressed and continue to raise the concerns of the issues of science and its future as well the importance of education in this field.



The work with the old and the young

The third part of the project 'Could Faust Dis-invent the Atomic Bomb' focused on exactly that.

After conducting interviews in Italy, Sweden and the UK with an older generation of people who remember the terrible events of Hiroshima and Nagasaki the four European partners carried out several workshops with young people in their respective countries.

In Sweden and in Stockholm, the activities with the young people focused on them imagining being researchers involved in addressing the major problems in the world – in their opinion. After introductions they saw the filmed interview with Rotblat, with a full Swedish translation as hand-out, and parts of the play.

The methodology used is heavily inspired by the user-oriented approach fostered at KTH (the Royal Institute of Technology) for a long time. The founding concepts are to support idea generation and to perform concrete design activities with all kinds of users, in this case young people.

All in all, more than 30 students, in the ages between 13 and 18, from three schools around Stockholm, participated in a series of design workshops,



In Rome the media institute Conora Europa approached the issue from two different angles.

After watching the material gathered over the past few months the young members of the dance studio choreographed two pieces. One interpretation was that of a world in which the human race lives peacefully, side by side, regardless of Religion, colour or creed. The other was a piece, which explores the aggressive side of society and the consequences of isolation and fear.

A different medium was used by the pupils of a Roman school. They produced a variety of paintings, photographs and collages, which deal with the issues of war and peace in the world today. Some were produced by youngsters who had themselves been victims of war.



Interviews

"In the German propaganda they talked about the bomb that would save the "Third Reich", which made us terrified."

"When we eventually got figures from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we were told about 50000 at each place, which was not higher than what we had got used to from Hamburg. It is terrible to say but that was our reference."

"Early it was talked about the consequences, about radiation but it took a long time before we realised the terrible consequences, that this was something else than an explosion of dynamite."

"In the months and years after August 1945 we gradually realised the consequences: people dying from radiation, the possibility to build even more powerful bombs that could annihilate mankind."

"In the 50s there was a mood that the young of today have difficulties understanding: the threat of atomic war added to the claustrophobia we had felt during the second world war."

"An example of other silly inventions and applications in my field is lobotomy, which was used without any knowledge about the effects in the long run."

"Did one think of the responsibility of those developing the bomb? No, not much, the war was so nasty anyway."



three or four workshops for each group. In these groups they generated a large amount of ideas, discussed around them and made final decisions on which to continue work on.

After learning more on the topics, they built low-tech prototypes and filmed video scenarios – how the products or services would work and how they could be used.

The Global Transporter made "the most environmentally friendly way of sharing the resources of our world". Team Energy focused on the unnecessary waste of energy and developed a concept on how to make use of the energy you produce in every-day activities. The Separator, highlighted the issue that we don't have enough fresh water in the world and developed a concept for cleaning water. The Handsfree Jojo looked into the ever-increasing amount of radio waves going back and forth in our everyday environment, and its possible negative consequences. FAVAHAMA made a large scale public transport system with no need for tracks or roads which uses hovercraft technology. The energy needed is produced by the passengers themselves, as exercise bikes are hooked to generators. The group The Carry-On Photo Synthesis makes efficient use of the individual's exhalation of carbon dioxide in order to keep some plants alive. They, in turn, give a good atmosphere.



In the UK the project went full circle and led two workshops by Klesidrateatro and Littlefish films with the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain and a school in Birmingham. The young members of the National Youth Theatre were shown the interviews of Sir Joseph Rotblat himself, interviews with various older people in the UK and the filmed performance of the production 'Faust in Hiroshima'.

Over a week six young actors researched the issues around Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos to create their own fictitious characters that could have been part of the development of the atomic bomb. Each person's monologue encouraged the participants of the workshop to consider the questions around responsibility and the future of mankind. This was formed into a short play that was performed at the Soho Theatre in London as work in progress.

Equally, the day spent at the school in Birmingham, confronted around 250 youngsters with issues of the past that are just as relevant today. Whether they wanted to become scientists, musicians, doctors, artists or else, the emphasis of the day lay upon the fact that as an individual you can take responsibility and make a difference.

The project 'Could Faust dis-invent the Atomic Bomb' has not only been the collaboration in the past year of three different European Countries which has seen approaches as varied as Science, Theatre, Art, Academia and communication.

It has been an effort and work of all those involved to highlight issues which are close to our hearts and important for a better future. The aim to raise the awareness of these issues for the generation of the young. For their development, their dreams and their future lives.

As the Nobel Laureate Adolfo Perez Esquivel said: 'I believe the important thing of all this is that children don't grow up with an 'armed' conscience of war. We have to 'disarm' that conscience for men, women and liberty. That is fundamental.'

These young people want to be part of defining the future for us all – and why shouldn't they?

