



TEATERCENTRUM





#### Dear Organizer,

This leaflet is an analytic tool in the form of a set of open questions. The aim of the tool is to highlight some of the artistic choices that make up a stage performance. It is an aid for self reflection on norm and inclusiveness. The ambition is to sharpen our eyes and practice our balance in order to gain access to new opportunities, narratives, bodies and voices on the stage.

Like society in general, the performing arts are characterized by inequality. This assumption made the 2015 annual general meeting of Teatercentrum adopt a policy of diversity, based on the Swedish Discrimination Act, in order to favour conscious and norm-creative activity in all areas. Our ambition is to boost artistic development and challenge homogeneity in the performing arts. But moving from policy to action is difficult and that is why Teatercentrum has designed this analytic tool: To help us see norms and power structures. Which in turn may encourage us to break patterns and habits that exclude people. We call that *norm creativity*.

The analytic tool is a set of questions that can be used for discussion by an organizer before ordering a particular performance, in planning the seasonal programme or when analysing a concluded season of performances. The questions are easier to discuss if you have had opportunity to take part of the performance. There is no key nor any correct answers. Also, all questions may not be relevant for everyone. To make this methodology useful, you will have to invest some time and effort, and you need to add questions of your own. The questions proposed will not do the entire work for us.

This tool is *one* way of working with diversity on a daily basis We hope it will inspire you and your colleagues to reflect together on what is expected and what is surprising.

/The Board of Teatercentrum



This analytic tool has been designed within a Teatercentrum project named Friktionskraft (Friction Force) – professional development for increased diversity in the performing arts, realized during 2017-2018 with support from the Swedish Postcode Foundation.

# **FRIKTIONS KRAFT TEATERCENTRUM**<sup>TM</sup>



# **EXPECTED OR SURPRISING**

### Organizer

### Contents

General questions about the performance

Creators

Script or other material

Roles

Performance

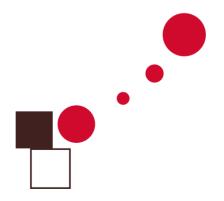
Audience



# GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

- What is the performance about?
- Does the performance examine a particular theme?
- What is the target audience?





### **CREATORS**

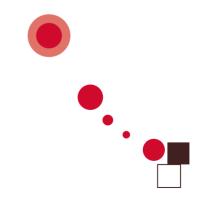
#### Who are the creators?

(Script, direction, choreography, set, music, costume, mask, light, sound etc.)

How are the creators presented in promotional material?

# In what way are members of the production team similar or different?

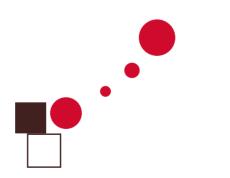
(Try to identify as many similarities and differences as possible.)



## **SCRIPT OR OTHER MATERIAL**

- Is the performance based on a new script, a classic, other material or source of inspiration?
- When and where is the plot enacted?
- How does this performance relate to your earlier programming?







What roles are there in the performance?

What characteristics are written into the roles? (Consider sexual identity, disability, ethnicity, sexuality, age, class etc.)

Who has been assigned which role?

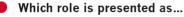
Who are the leading roles?

#### What role...

- ... makes decisions?
- ... takes initiatives?
- ... falls in love?
- ... breaks the law?
- ... is passive?
- ... makes a sacrifice?
- ... learns something new?
- ... (to be completed with actions relevant for the show)

#### ... ROLES

How do various roles show feelings like grief, anger, desire, love etc.?



- ...attractive?
- ...complex?
- ...responsible?
- ...funny/boring?
- ...abnormal?
- ...goodhearted/wicked?
- ...stupid?
- ...normal?
- ... (to be completed with characteristics relevant for the show)



### PERFORMANCE

- Whose perspective does the audience follow? Is there a narrator?
  - How do the different actors use the stage? (Space, posture, set, props etc.)
- How do the different actors use their voices? (Volume, pausing, vocal pitch, dialect, accent etc.)
- How are status and power portrayed on stage?
- **By what means are gender and sexual identity portrayed?** (Costume, mask, body language, beards, hairstyle, parlance etc.)
- Is sexuality portrayed if so, how?
- How are the characters in the play emphasized through music, sound and light? How does that affect:
  - ... the story ?
  - ... understanding the characters?
  - ... other?

### **AUDIENCE**

- What is the immediate impression the audience get when they reach the venue?
- How is the audience invited into the performance?
- Is the audience expected to observe the performance or to interact with it – how is that agreed upon?
- Is the audience expected to sit, stand or move around during the performance?
- **Does the performance presume that the audience can...** ... understand a specific language?
  - ... see?
  - ... hear?
  - ... stay quiet?
  - ... other (to be completed with things relevant for the performance)
- Does the performance contain references that the audience/target group are expected to understand?

#### ... AUDIENCE

- Are there several characters in the performance that the audience may identify with?
- When and how does the performance end?
- What happens after the performance? (Will there be a dialogue/discussion, any pedagogical material, a workshop, other?)



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an analytic tool about norms, inclusiveness and artistic choices in the performing arts

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