

Outdoor Lab Experience

Cratère surfaces

ALÈS INTERNATIONAL OUTDOOR FESTIVAL

Writing and producing a show in the public space is a challenge, especially as a first experience. Beyond the exercise in style and the demanding nature(s) of the chosen artistic discipline(s), the artist projecting him or herself into the public space should also be aware of its specificities: the public space is not a neutral context. Locate the audience, control the possibilities of interaction, surprise and grab the attention or play for a convened audience, select the appropriate site, know how and why to invest it, anticipate the relevant techniques, accept the risks which could arise from potential disturbances, outside the protective walls that a venue provides.

In France, arts in the public space have been remarkably creative and dynamic.

Famous French street artists have created unforgettable images, invested places that had previously been inaccessible, built up the imagination of generations of spectators... and of artists, too. Today, throughout the world, artists have engaged in the process of creating performances for the public space, or indeed intend to.

With the « Outdoor Lab Experience », we aim at offering international emerging artists the possibility to watch and study various performances within a festival context, from the perspective of an audience member, keeping a professional critical sense in mind. Enhance analytical skills through observation and exchange of good practices, hereby indulging time and reflexion to the gestation of the upcoming artistic project.

What are the codes? How do you address the audience, and to what desired effect? What are the pitfalls? While certain companies are preparing the after-retirement of their founding members, sharing experience and passing on knowledge will lay the groundwork for new creations to blossom. The « Outdoor Lab Experience » wishes to welcome in the street talents in development.

The intention is of course not to weaken the originality of artistic processes and bring them down to a low common denominator, but on the contrary to pass on the fundamentals of Street Arts, with subtlety and conviviality. This approach has arisen through the contact of numerous European and international companies and will allow new projects to benefit from a more relevant and rapid expansion.

The festival Cratere Surfaces has, over many years, developed a strong sense for meeting opportunities. Both between performances and audience, and also amongst professionals.

Through the support of conferences, cultural tourism and even a friendly alfresco catering, the combined teams of the **Cratere Theatre** and **La Cellule** join their efforts to offer numerous professional meeting and exchange opportunities alongside an unusual artistic program. In 2013, Cratere Surfaces implemented for the first time this professional programme aimed at talents in development.

In 2016, after the desire of la Cellule to go on with other projects, **Productions Bis** takes its missions and continues this partnership with the Cratere, in the aim to develop the international aspect of the festival Cratère Surfaces.

