

« Car le vrai rôle d'un festival est d'aider les
artistes à oser, à entreprendre des projets... »
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Speech by Nick Delatovic

Participant at the Atelier Budapest

Closing ceremony of the Atelier for Young Festival Managers BUDAPEST 2016

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When I got here on the first day of the atelier I was so excited at the notion of what the conference was. The chance to spend 7 unbroken days just talking about why we do what we do and how we might do it better, a thing that is never given enough time, the idea of draw down ideas.

Within a couple of days of being at the conference I was convinced that the premise of the atelier could never work. I was overwhelmed by the huge variety of need and challenges among the 43 of us and the idea of even trying to arrange a list of topics to tackle, that seemed impossible. And the days were long and I was tired and grumpy and I got to a point where I decided I would just give up and focus on the thing that I definitely could do which is to make friends with all the fine people here. So I started to just hang out and talk to everybody. We talked more about how various needs and challenges that we have. It was clear that everybody was crying out for structure and a sense of focus on a plan. Over the next couple of days after that an interesting thing started to happen What started out as a group of people coming to discuss their own needs and get support for their own needs, started to become a group of people whose natural instincts kicked in when they heard the needs of the others around them and that for me was when the real structure and focus of the conference started to come together. It was a very simple, very natural series of moments of people wanting to help somebody else with their problems. Within another couple of days of conference, things that seemed like clouds of floating ideas, started to crystalize for me into clear questions. Issues started to turn into potential models in my mind of ways they could be tackled.

Comments by people made me suddenly see things in a way that was a hundred times clearer than before. We got to today as the 43 of us plus the mentors and the staff, sitting around a circle, sharing thoughts. Like, I am sure, many others in the room, I was overwhelmed not just by the emotions and relations that I formed which I will hold dear for a long time, whether I am physically in the room with any of you at any point. But also I had a clear sense that something was achieved here and it was achieved through the relationships.

The thing that I seem to have to relearn every year of my life, in particular my life as a festival manager is that all need is serviced through relationships. So any model, any plan, any structure has to have relationships at his heart. So I thank all of you for helping me learn that lesson for the 100th time and I look forward to the next 100th time that I do learn it.

