

Chiang Mai 2016

« Car le vrai rôle d'un festival est d'aider les artistes à oser, à entreprendre des projets... »  
Bernard Faivre d'Arcier

# Atelier for Young Festival Managers

## 1 - 7 December 2016

Closing words by

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Participant of the Atelier Chiang Mai 2016

Closing Ceremony of the Atelier for Young Festival Managers Chiang Mai 2016

07 December 2016, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Hello Everyone,

First of all: Thanks for having us at this wonderful place. It's certainly one of the many beautiful places in and around this beautiful city.

Yesterday I was thinking about the best way to do this and I figured that the best way would be to sum up the most important lessons we have learned here. I wrote down 7 lessons; one for every day we spent here. Ok, there we go:

- 1: You can sneak into a swimming pool at night. Thai security guards are too polite to send you away anyway.
- 2: Thai security guards can be quite freaky though and will come up with inventive ways to scare you. Ask Philip for more info...
- 3: Always make sure to bring enough food if you're going somewhere in Chiang Mai. You never know if there's enough...
- 4: Chiang Mai is a very vibrant city, with lots of arts and culture, very long night markets, and also a very vibrant night-life, even till 03:00 in the morning, as we discovered yesterday.
- 5: The local team was amazing! I'm not that much of a morning-person, but seeing all those smiles every morning, made me very happy.
- 6: The TCEB is a great organisation! Thank you for having us here and for the very good organisation!
- 7: The Festival Academy did a really good job. Thanks to all the inspiring mentors and Laure, Inge and Deborah!

Ok, that was the fun part. Now the serious...

This afternoon we talked about our experiences and I have the feeling that almost everything has been said there. But I wanted to point out one thing that happened to me and that I've seen happening to some others as well. And the most illustrative case was Nia.

Nia, we talked a lot during our session at the river. And you really have been struggling with the environment you had to do your work in. But you did that with so much urgency, passion and drive. In the beginning of the atelier you seemed a bit tired of the struggle and the fight you had to deliver every day in this environment. Nevertheless, during the week I really saw an uplift in your energy. I saw hope again; it seemed like you'd found back your passion and spirit. I think this is illustrative of what the atelier could do. I also found myself strengthened in my urgency to work in and for the arts. And I hope a similar thing happened to all of us.

I think this urgency and spirit is very important. During the atelier we have talked a lot about conditions, audiences, identities, budgets. But it all starts with urgency. I'd like to quote Frie Leysen, and this quote is also very much related to the quote of Wim Wenders that Nele shared with us: "The arts are elusive, we can't measure them". So that means we have to do this from our intuition, we have to do this by heart!

I wish you all the best of luck in doing that!