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## **OPEN CALL: cross media artists for ŠtěStí | Geluk**

PeerGrouP (the international site-specific theatre company based in the North of the Netherlands) and Archa Theatre (the international production house of contemporary theatre based in Prague, the Czech Republic) are currently collaborating on a new international festival project for the 2017-2018 season. This year's theme is: Happiness (Czech: ŠtěStí, Dutch: Geluk). In this context PeerGrouP is offering four young creatives/artists the opportunity to develop a new performance, which will premiere at the Noorderzon Performing Arts Festival (in the city of Groningen, the Netherlands) in August 2017.

### **ŠtěStí | Geluk**

In our current society we are constantly being stimulated to buy, like and pursue things. Such as paying off our mortgage, buying cool shoes for our daughter or getting likes on our Facebook page. Future achievements often seem to be more important than our present everyday lives. However, do all those things we collect or pursue really make us happier? People are increasingly feeling the need to slow things down and start living in the here and now again. The simple joy of being surrounded by our loved ones, feeling the peace and quiet we seem to have lost somewhere down the road. We are all on a quest for happiness. But how do we define it in today's world? And how much do people differ from one another in this respect?

This summer PeerGrouP is setting out to explore what we all commonly seem to need to make us feel happy. What is the difference in perception of happiness between people who are happy with nothing and others who think they can only be happy if they have it all?

### **It's you we're looking for!**

In the context of this project we are looking for two young creatives/artists with knowledge of the Czech culture as well as two young creatives/artists with knowledge of the Dutch culture, willing to embark – under supervision of PeerGrouP director Dirk Bruinsma – on a quest to find happiness and subsequently aiming to jointly create a cross-disciplinary performance, based on the material they themselves will gather in the Czech Republic. Aspiring participants are required to be available during the entire research, production and perform phase, and also to have recently graduated or else to be currently graduating from

art school. Our scope is quite wide as regards to your specific type of artistic training. For instance, included here is any formal training in the field of: film, dance, scenography, directing/acting, gaming, theatre, music, new media, etc. If you are in doubt whether your schooling is fitting for this project, please contact us.

**These are the skills and qualifications we would like you to have:**

- Creativity, drive and inventiveness
- Ability to work together in a cross-disciplinary project
- Affinity with working on location and engaging the audience
- Ability to think outside the conventional theatre context
- An open mind towards outside the box ideas of the fellow creatives
- Proficient communication skills in English
- Proactivity, specifically in terms of the actual development process – from concept to performance

## What is the project about?

The project starts off with a research phase, during which the four creatives/artists explore the happiness theme. In this context they travel to one of the most remote small villages in the Czech Republic. Jointly the material gathered there shall be developed into a concept (plan) for a festival performance. During the following production and rehearsal phase, this concept shall be further developed in the Netherlands by the creatives/artists. The result is to be performed at the Noorderzon Performing Arts Festival in the city of Groningen (the Netherlands) as well as – subject to change – at the Akcent Festival in the city of Prague.

## Schedule

<b>1 - 14 May</b>	Research phase in the Czech Republic (trip and concept development)
<b>24 July - 6 August</b>	Production phase in the Netherlands
<b>7 - 17 August</b>	Try-out's in the city of Groningen (the Netherlands)
<b>18 - 28 August</b>	Performances at the Noorderzon Performing Arts Festival, Groningen

## What we are offering you

- Professional supervision
- An introduction to site specific theatre in general and PeerGroup's unique (project) approach and working methods
- Reimbursement of travel and other costs as well as a project allowance

## How to apply

Auditions will be held both in the Netherlands as well as in the Czech Republic. In Prague these will take place on Thursday 6 and Friday 7 April this year. In order to apply, please submit the following in one single document:

- Curriculum Vitae

- Motivation letter
- Assignment report regarding the following preliminary assignment:
- Say you were to be dropped in a remote Czech village and assigned to explore the theme happiness. You are searching for answers to the following questions: What does happiness mean in the eyes of the villagers? And in what way is this reflected in their lives? What are the differences and the similarities compared to your own (living) environment?

Please describe in no more than one page (A4) how you would effectively approach such a research week as well as how you would use your qualities within the context of this research.

Attach a passport photo as a separate file.

Please send in your application before 1 April 2017 addressed to the director Dirk Bruinsma: [dirk@peergroup.nl](mailto:dirk@peergroup.nl). For questions about participating in **ŠtěStí | Geluk** please contact the production manager Hinke Beekman: [hinke@peergroup.nl](mailto:hinke@peergroup.nl).