

Report development interview ACAPA on 2 July 2018

The last part of the visit of the panel at ACAPA on July, 2th, is the so-called development interview with the panel. In this development interview we propose to talk about the following subject. We want to talk about these subject because we think it is relevant for possible improvements from a development perspective.

1. Discussion about the future ambitions of the academy

What will be the changes in the circus world in the coming decade? Like every art form, the circus world also changes continuously. There will be new circus artists who are on their way to change the art form. Circus schools are in our opinion a strong source for changes, graduating students entering the field with their work have the potential to transform the work field.

Through the stimulus from FEDEC the international circus schools are professionalizing. We see a cross-fertilization between the work field and the circus schools.

We would like to debate our developing ideas for the future direction of ACAPA. Not to get the definitive answers from the panel, but to put forward our quest for answers, knowing that there is not one correct answer. We hope that we and the members of the panel will be inspired through this discussion.

There are many institutes and locations where the development of circus is discussed in different forms. The opinions within these discussions are of a wide range. How can we find the most relevant connection for ACAPA within these considerations? How does ACAPA aspire to take position within this broad field?

Of course this subject is also part of an on-going debate with the work field, alumni, FHK and students.

2. Result of the discussion

The academy is in control. As part of FHK we have implemented the three elements of the strategic vision of FHK. How to develop the next new step in the development of the academy? We have an ambition, in addition to the existing academy, to start with a teachers education. We also want to provide more input to FEDEC, because the importance of FEDEC for the circus world (especially in Europe) is in our opinion great.

The panel has given us the following advises:

- do not just think strategically, but ask yourself the question 'what would you like?'
- try to expand the circus performance community in Tilburg further around the existing academy;
- start the discussion in the FEDEC community about the importance of exchange of teachers and students between circus schools. Teachers (and of course also students) bring back information from this exchange to the academy;
- develop unique characteristics of the academy further, for example the testing committee. Students are satisfied that they get the competences they need.
- investigate the option to develop and offer workshops, in collaboration with FEDEC and/or other circus schools, to alumni. ACAPA has, as part of FHK, a lot of facilities and possibilities (Dance, Theatre and other art disciplines). After some years of work, alumni have the need to refresh their knowledge;
- make sure you become useful, then you will also be helpful;

- investigate the possibility that students can specialise in more than one discipline, within ACAPA but also within other art forms that FHK offers.
- the last point mentioned is that the academy has to be clear about its position within FHK. Is the positioning within the sector Theatre the right one or does another sector fit better?

The academy is satisfied with this development interview and has received good and useful input for the further development of the policy.

ACAPA

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