

Otto Novoa,

born in 1969, currently living in Weil-Schwabhausen near Landsberg am Lech in southern Germany. He began acting in his home town Villavicencio (Columbia) at the Escuela de Artes Populares de la Casa de la Cultura Pablo Neruda.

In 1991 he founded the "Theaterkollektiv 6. April". This project and many others came to a tragic end as a consequence of the social conflicts in the late 1980s and 1990s.

In 1991 Otto moved to Moscow, but it was a time of change and it was not possible to stay. Motivated by this experience he managed to travel to the Czechoslovakia. In 1992 he began studying to become a theatre director and later at the University of performing arts in Bratislava (Slovakia) he received his degree. In 1999 Otto began his PhD which allowed him to alternatively live in Paris, Prague, Lyon and Bratislava. He took part in many European theatre festivals as both director and actor.

In 2002 he settled in Germany and founded the theatre laboratory and cultural centre "UNSER THEATER" in Weil-Schwabhausen. Though this project was initially intended for only a year, it became an institution which gave the small village new inspiration. Otto started a family there and brought creativity, educational inspiration and fresh culture to the rural region. In his role as a theatre director and teacher he dedicated much of his time to theatre work with children and youths, within which a special focus was given to integrative theatre.

Otto Novoa is also a co-founder and leader of the integrative art theatre project "Die Körpermomente" in Munich where adults with autism work on the stage. This is the only autistic theatre group in Germany which regularly meets for rehearsal and performance.

Otto says of his work:

"The many years of work in this unconventional space, in which the theatre laboratory takes place has allowed me to develop a work process in which every actor becomes acquainted with the other actors and the space around them. For this reason I have developed a series of exercise which I vary depending on the cultural background and needs of the production. The actor uses their potential, shares it with others and in a process of exchange during the rehearsals shares with the others to find their individual path, refine their reflexes and explore the space. The aim is that the "Performer" learns to use their body as their main instrument so that piece is brought to the audience with their individuality, while keeping in mind that both are part of a collective and a unique experience"

His entire theatrical career has been influenced by theatre greats such as Jerzy Grotowski, Peter Brook and Eugenio Barba. Interdisciplinary, Intercultural and Multilingual elements are always present both in his every day life and his artistic work.