

Building bridges between research, theatre and dance practices and training

Dr. Yvonne Schmidt

Institute for the Performing Arts and Film, Zurich University of the Arts

The stage laboratory *DisAbility on Stage* is a pilot project in order to develop models of participation and collaboration in view of training opportunities for people with disabilities in Switzerland. The focus lies on two model collaborations: the Masters in Physical Theatre at the Accademia Teatro Dimitri in Verscio, in collaboration with the dance company Teatro Danzabile from Ticino, and the Bachelors degree in Contemporary Dance at Zurich University of the Arts, in collaboration with BewegGrund in Berne and Danzabile in Ticino. The aim is to develop skills at the crossroads between training practices, the theatre and dance scene, presenting productions by and with people with a disability as well as practice-based research at arts universities. The stage lab is linked to the three-year research project *DisAbility on Stage* hosted by the Institute for the Performing Arts and Film of Zurich University for the Arts: <https://blog.zhdk.ch/disabilityonstage>.

Bio:

I am a Senior Researcher, Lecturer, and head of the SNSF-research project *DisAbility on Stage* in collaboration with Swiss universities, theatre/dance companies, and festivals, such as Theater HORA. I hold a PhD in Theater Studies from the University of Bern and was a PhD-fellow at the University of Illinois at Chicago. I am the co-convener/founder of the IFTR Working Group *Performance & Disability*, was head of symposiums at the festival *No Limits* Berlin (with Marcel Bugiel), and co-edited a special themed issue of *Research in Drama Education on International Perspectives on Performance, Disability, and Deafness* (with Mark Swetz and Carrie Sandahl as contributing editor).