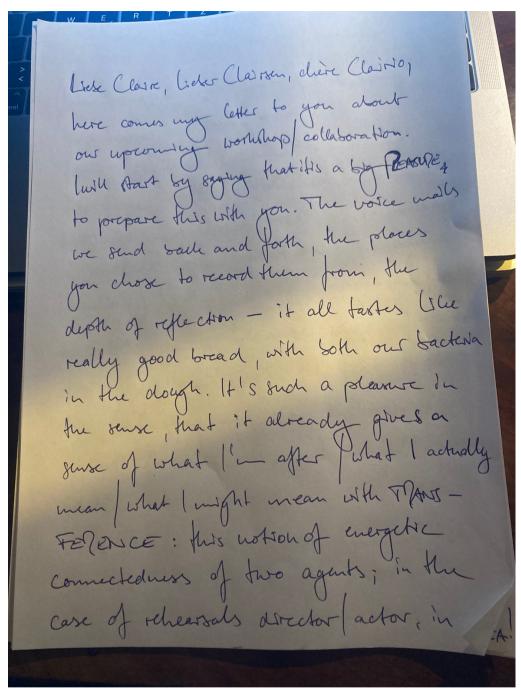
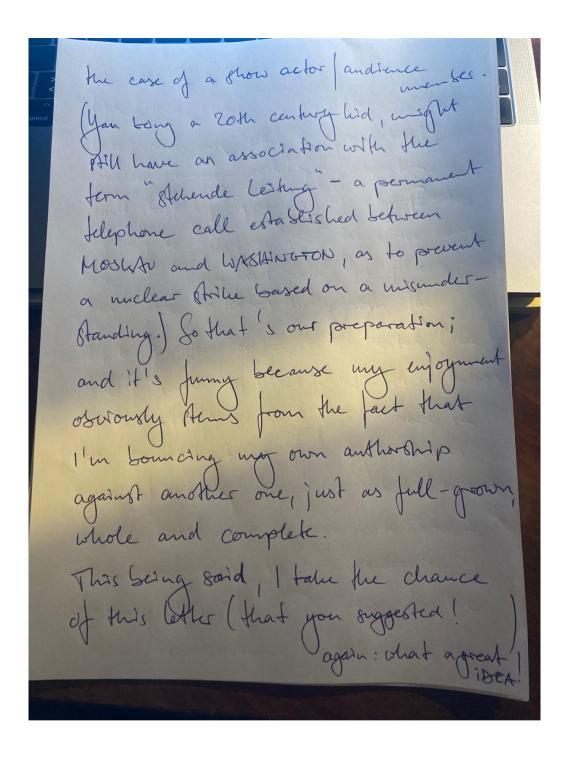
Liebe Claire, lieber Clairsen, chère Clairio,



here comes my letter to you about our upcoming workshop/collaboration.

I will start by saying that it is a big PLEASURE to prepare this with you. The voice mails we send back and forth, the places you chose to record them from, the depth of reflection – it all tastes like really good bread, with both our bacteria in the dough. It's such a pleasure in the sense, that it already gives a sense of what I'm after / what I actually mean / what I might mean with TRANS-FERENCE: this notion of energetic connectedness of two agents; in the case of rehearsals director/actor, in



the case of a show actor/audience member.

(You being a 20th century kid, might still have an association with the term "stehende Leitung" – a permanent telephone call established between MOSKAU and WASHINGTON, as to prevent a nuclear strike based on a misunderstanding.) So that's our preparation; and it's funny because my enjoyment obviously stems from the fact that I'm bouncing my own authorship against another one, just as full-grown, whole and complete.

This being said I take the chance of this letter (that you suggested! again: what a great IDEA!)

to tell you what might be difficult to stress in a dialogue: in this research in the research I'm doing, I'm interested in exploring fantachronistic forms collaboration. By that I mean a for relation between actor and director nas almost entirely disappeared from my own practice for various reasons) but that does persist outther and might be of some value again in the future. What I mean by that I'm interested in seeing 1 between actor and offer something different than

to tell you what might be difficult to stress in a dialogue: in this research / in the research I'm doing, I'm interested in exploring anachronistic forms of collaboration. By that I mean a form of relation between actor and director, that has almost entirely disappeared from my own practice (for various reasons) but does persist "out there" and might be of some value again in the future. What I mean by that, is that I'm interested in seeing the relation and director as something different than a "happy marriage" of two full-grown autonomous authorships.

I'd like to explore it as what maybe used to be instead: asymmetric and co-dependant. I will explain in a second, unparte the concepts a bit. For now, let's have it sit with us and maybe notice the susations that come with these Co-dependancy is a form I've learned in the context of addiction, a partner enabling the self-) destructive behaviour of the Other. In the actor director that has probably a more that: one can't be without the If the actor doesn't get a call, sill doesn't know what to do and if the

I'd like to explore it as what it maybe used to be instead: as <u>asymmetric</u> and <u>co-dependant</u>. I will explain in a second, unpack the concepts a bit. For now, let's just have it sit with us and maybe notice the sensations that come with these adjectives.

Co-dependancy is a term I've learned in the context of addiction, a partner enabling the (self-) destructive behaviour of the other. In the actor/director [relation] that has probably a more pragmatic level, but what I mean is simply that: one can't be without the other. If the actor doesn't get a call, s/he doesn't know what to do and if the

Objector is left alone in the retreats space, there is he work to do either. Again, this is an anachronitic conception of both profession, but I'm concerously bracheting all sorts of antonomious variants that came with the polidramatic fun in theatre and the social from in the outs). You coming from the dance field will know your I'm have about expanded practices or the theatre | would say that by now directors are mostly engage as director - curators, director - facilitatos director - hosts, director - community All possible ways to exape the co-dependant relationship with the actor

director is left alone in the rehearsal space, there is no work to do either. Again, this is an anachronistic conception of both profession[s], but I'm consciously bracketing all sorts of autonomous variants that came with the postdramatic turn in theatre (and the social turn in the arts). You coming from the dance field will know your fine share about <u>expanded</u> practices. For the theatre I would say that by now directors are mostly engaging as director-curators, director-facilitators, director-hosts, director-community workers. All possible ways to escape the co-dependant relationship with the actor,

etic twing ! on an asymmetric get which the analyst's desire ofays in the dark; while the analysand is busy dragging the west remote impulses to A cets: I pay the person that gets to

where their craft only manifests in a mutual Durchdringung (Piercing?) of each other's crafts. The <u>asymmetric</u> thing I take from our love-hated friend LACAN. He states that the psychoanalytic situation is based on an asymmetric set-up in which the analyst's desire stays in the dark; whilst the analysand is busy dragging the most remote impulses to light. This set-up guarantees the activation of an actual transference, which in [F]reudian terms, seems to be the one reason for psychoanalysis' therapeutic effects: I pay the person that gets to be a standin for a former relation. I get to repeat, act-out in a space that is not reality; but has real effects

maybe compete, offen collaborate) + (psycho-analytic) situation of directing and Pahul

in my subconscious economy.

So <u>asymmetry</u> is the precondition for transference to succeed. I can easily see how I myself have been using that strategy as a director: making a mistery out of my desire, to that the actors would be ambitious (maybe compete, often collaborate) to strike its chord. When we did PHAIDRA in GRAZ, I believe, we took that (psycho-analytic) situation of directing as the basic aesthetical structure – and you, Christoph and Rahul transferred it on the audience. "The performance engages a sort of psychic conflict with the spectator. It is a challenge and an excess, but can only have an effect if based on

human Interest and more than that director can help the coor only of onally and warmly opon in my desire. I'm not say that my instructions will subconscious bornisc

human interest and, more than that, on a feeling of sympathy, a feeling of acceptation. In the same way, the director can help the actor in this complex and agonizing process only if he is just as emotionally and warmly open to the actor as the actor is in regard to him."

(, says GROTOWSKI)

However, in the work we're about to undertake, I can see a more dynamic notion of asymmetry. The LIVE-DIRECTING method is a way / a promise for me to come out of the dark, to try to be obvious in my desire. I'm not saying that my instructions will be clear, intelligible signals/messages, they will sure be full of subconscious bruise, but I have hopes that my transference will also be documented. And that

with the help of the WHEEL OF CONSENT, we might even unlock a language for where the asymmetry resided in what moment: Whose deade Thall Hay in the dark at what times? Oh, why am I dwelling so long on these witions of asymmetry and codependance? It only fulls important in regards to the other enjoyment I began this letter with; the satisfaction of durong this study in what feels to me Whe two antonomious wills. Agencies and author-When I had the importe the idea for my research project, the ethical subject of the director was already in a deep crisis The dilluma springing from wolny people

with the help of the WHEEL OF CONSENT, we might even unlock a language for where the asymmetry resides in what moment: Whose desire shall stay in the dark at what times? Ok, why am I dwelling so long on these notions of <u>asymmetry</u> and <u>co-dependence</u>? It only feels important in regards to the other enjoyment I began this letter with; the satisfaction of devising this study in what feels to me like two autonomous wills. Agencies and authorships.

When I had the impulse / the idea for my research project, the ethical subject of the director was already in a deep crisis. The dilemma springing from using people

as a a means tother than an end in itself had gotten dowous fuddenly this method by pointing at the outcome (the great fir, the great at prece Instead directing Hasted to losen up about the product, Fresting the process (the premiere as the place where we arrived after 6 weeks" and ultimately attemps to treat actors as human beings. the are an end in itself. Paradopically this theater of auto-biographical accounts has led to other forms of exploitation and invisibilisation.) but in drifting What I mean to say is: have hopes that we can work with the notion or Care, respect and achnowledgement of

as a means (rather than an end in itself) had gotten obvious. Suddenly, people were no longer willing to defend this "method" by pointing at the outcome (the great film, the great art piece...) Instead directing started to losen up about the product, stressing the process (the premiere as the place "where we arrived after 6 weeks") and ultimately attempted to treat actors as human beings, that are an end in itself. (Paradoxically this theater of autobiographical accounts has led to other forms of exploitation and invisibilisation.) But I'm drifting...

What I mean to say is: I have hopes that we can work with the notion of care, respect and acknowledgement of

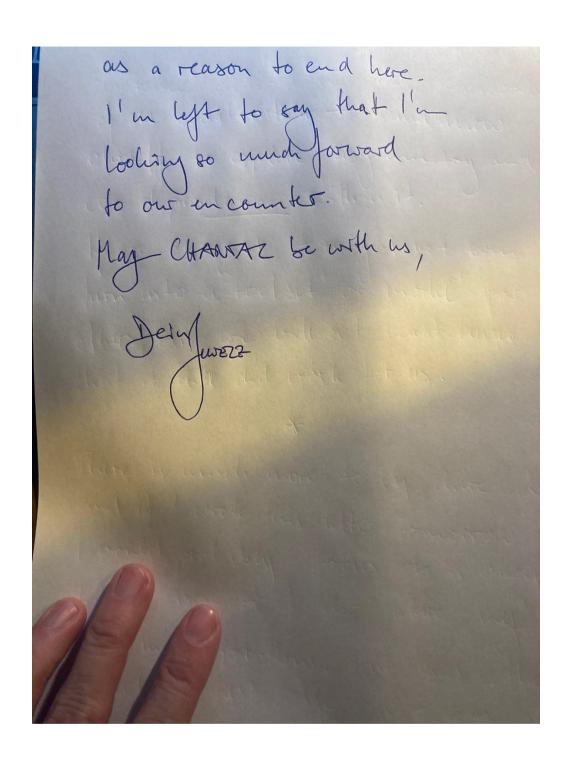
of our collaboration — and allow ourself to explore asymmetry and co-dependance within it. If we succeed, it might not even fun into a tool set or model for others, but we will at least know, that it work for us. There is much more to say, churc Clare, and if I wrote this letter formarrow I would probably focus on a whole different aropect of the future, my hopes and aroporrations. But this is the second - to - last page that was in my pointer this morning, so I tal

difference whilst building the framework of our collaboration – and allow ourself to explore asymmetry and co-dependance within it.

If we succeed, it might not even turn into a "tool set" or "model" for others, but we will at least know, that it did work for us.

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There is much more to say, chère Claire, and if I wrote this letter tomorrow I would probably focus on a whole different aspect of the future, my hopes and aspirations. But this is the second-to-last page that was in my printer this morning, so I take that



as a reason to end here.

I'm left to say that I'm looking so much forward to our encounter.

May CHANTAL be with us,

Dein

JEWELZ