ALICE2 Case Study

MAPA D2: Artists and researchers from Europe and Latin America get together through RedCLARA to stage telematics shows

To dance interacting with the resources created by technology. This is the new challenge for 51 artists, 12 researchers and 17 institutions from 10 countries in Latin America, Europe and Africa, brought together through MAPA D2, who since 2009 have turned the world of academic networks and of RedCLARA in particular into virtual stages in which, thanks to a synchronised choreography between the academia and the arts, they have been able to take the movement, expressiveness and emotions of dancing and acting to new levels of performance, interpretation and interaction.

Information and communication technologies have become a means for artistic expression and therefore, the network has become a necessary space to bring together all those who work for the staging of dancing shows with technological mediation, for those who study and do research on this discipline. This led to the emergence of the Map and Programme of Arts in Digital Dancing, MAPA D2, a virtual platform which aims to establish an articulation between the cultural and academic worlds for the dissemination and educational and technological support in the field of dancing and performance in Portuguese and Spanish speaking countries.

"The project's idea came up from the need for contact between the people who work with technological dancing in Brazil, a country with continental dimensions", explains Ivani Santana, Coordinator of MAPA D2. Participation in this initiative requires registration and provides information about the participating groups, events, rooms, videos, bibliographical material, as well as the participation in discussion forums and live access to events.

"For MAPA D2, being connected to RedCLARA shows that our efforts to use the network as a possible and relevant space for the exchange between countries, in our case Portuguese and Spanish speaking ones, were right. Therefore, we have shown that even the arts require the support of advanced networks and can benefit from the virtual tools, spaces and communities existing in RedCLARA. We are slowly growing, but through the relation with RedCLARA we are certain that we will reach a stable situation in a strong, structured and sustainable community", states Santana.

Dancing and Interacting

Advanced networks have contributed with valuable resources to art; today, artists from different countries can dance and interact with network users in a virtual stage in real time. A recent example of this application was the e-Pormundos Afeto telematic dancing show, which brought together in a virtual 3D environment dancers who were in Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Barcelona (Spain) with a Lego MXT robot that was in Salvador (Brazil) and with avatars created by those who participated in the show through the network. Made possible by the capacities of advanced internet, the transatlantic show was transmitted free of charge to the world of commercial internet, bringing a cutting-edge telematics artistic experience to the internet users audience. The activity received a lot of support from the academic networks in Brazil (RNP), Argentina (Innova|Red), Catalonia (I2Cat) and the participation of Kònic Thtr.

"In the case of Spain, it is very interesting to learn about the activities conducted in this field in all Portuguese and Spanish speaking countries. The contact with groups from other regions is very important", point out Rosa Sánchez and Alain Bauman, Mapa D2 Coordinators, Spain.

The work of MAPA D2 improves the relations and associations between the groups which study and perform dancing with technological mediation. "Our aim is to have an increasingly closer relation with RedCLARA since we are working with several Ibero-American countries and in this moment we are getting ready for a European open call for the development and transmission of our knowledge in the field of dancing and telematics performance. To do this, RedCLARA's support will be extremely important, since it is a bridge for interconnection with advanced networks worldwide", concludes Ivani.

More information:

http://www.mapad2.ufba.br/
http://www.poeticatecnologica.ufba.br/site/
http://www.koniclab.info
http://www.fedame.org.mx

"Our idea is to identify what dancing does with technological mediation, providing guidance on where to study and how to show the work's result. We want to raise the flag of collaboration".

Ivani Santana, *MAPA D2 Coordinator, Brazil.*

"The community's potential is very big. We are still working to develop groups in our countries. The generation of knowledge is very interesting and is fundamental to establish new forms of cooperation".

Diego Carrera, *MAPA D2 Coordinator, Uruguay.*
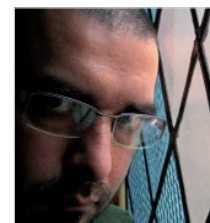
"MAPA D2 expands the network, the new forms of production and ways of thinking about the body's movement and image. Furthermore, it contributes to getting the community of dancing mediated by technology to turn their eyes in each country towards artistic policymaking, thus making dancing become more aware of its role in the culture of hybridisation".

Alejandra Ceriani, *Mapa D2 Coordinator, Argentina.*