

Session Safety/Veiligheid

Present: a mix of artists and teachers.

Topics of this session:

- 1) Explaining: what are we doing in this safety trajectory?
- 2) What does the group think: we started with the schools. Now we are trying to make the translation to the rest of the sector.

Part one: What are we doing?

What does safety mean for you? (question for the group)

- Prevention
- Feeling good
- Every responsible person for safety should be able to sleep at night
- It can mean a lot of rules, within traditional they learned it as kids by doing, not just learning by rules

What is safety?

- Creating a safer environment ≠ not more rules

How do you approach safety?

- Proces
 - o First step: counselling on safety. In this project we started with the bigger schools.
 - o Next step: look at the organisation level. How can organisations work on the topic of safety.
 - o Now: making the translation to others, to everybody who is interested.
- Safety is always evolving, there is no set manual
- There is funding for the project
- Safety is not just about rigging. We work with three different themes: technical, physical and psycho-social safety. These three elements should always go together, it is an holistic view on safety.
- Safety as part of every training course.

The three themes:

- Technical
 - o Technical control by professional organisations. Making the translation to everybody.
 - o Technical security is more than “paper security” it’s, about knowing what to do and how to do it.
 - o Training moments are about teaching what to do.
- Physical
 - o In October there is going to be a workshop about first aid and injury prevention. in collaboration with the Flemish cross, which implies certification and with a focus on circus.
 - Example: what do you do when someone falls out of a trapeze?
 - o Ine from ECDF is developing a masterclass health for circus artists. This is a broader topic than just safety and talks about subjects like food, sleep, stress, ... with a specialisation for female artists.

Psychosocial

- Do research in and with different organisations
- Work with partners and rest of the rest of the sector

Safety project: Idea: every two years new safety project → life long learning

Part two: Small workshops

The group divided in three circles centred around one of the three themes. People wrote on paper sheets what this theme means for them.

After 15 minutes we all came together and talked about the most important elements in each circle.

- Physical safety
 - spotten = important questions are: how do you help someone? how do you help each other?
 - physical preparation
 - long term learning period: what is the effect of artistst/students life on their physique.
 - Ex.: what is the effect of exams?
 - Do you have a plan? What do you do if an injury happens?
 - What are the effects of the psychosocial on the physical?
- Psychosocial:
 - Why is it psychosocial: it's always combined with the other two themes.
 - Topics as like: boundaries, consent:
 - ex.: the film industry has intimacy coaches
 - How do you create a safe space?
 - How do you deal with bystanders?
 - How do you deal with stress?
 - Prevention
- Technical Safety
 - Time: you need time to safely build up and take down your equipment and prepare a show
 - Insurance: circus artists often operate in a grey zone
 - What about a specialised insurance company for circus?
 - Paper safety is not the same thing as actual safety
 - International aspect: rules are different in every country
 - Quality of material
 - Is usually good in the E.U.
 - Regular checks of material

One finale important note: this discussion is not over, this is just the starting point.