Theater der Welt
Digital Festival Archive

The festival "Theater der Welt"

- since 1979 "Theater der Welt" is run regularly
- theatre festival of the ITI Germany
- wandering festival: every edition takes place in another German city
- changing curator: every edition is curated by a different team
- started biannually, now triannually
- in its diversity and its interdisciplinary programme "Theater der Welt" has played a major role in shaping the festival landscape nationally and internationally

⟹ so far there exists neither a regular collecting and documentation process nor a place (archive) for the materials, objects, documents of the various festival editions

⟹ it's rather difficult to find information about the individual festival editions or to understand the festival's background

The Project aim

- Development of a digital archive to display the almost 40-year history of the festival "Theater der Welt"

- **What's in focus?**
  1. visualising the wide range of artists and productions coming from all over the world
  2. show the festival highlights
  3. give insight into the aesthetic and thematic focus of the individual editions

⇒ give an overview of the festival and its development during the last 38 years

- **Whom do we want to address?**
  1. audience, familiar with the festival, who want to get further insight
  2. people interested in theatre , who have never (or hardly) heard of the festival
  3. journalists, researchers, students
  4. cultural politicians, (possible) supporters, funding institutions

The Project challenges

- **Diversity of sources**
  - un-indexed object archive at ITI
  - many outside sources for objects and information (former and current festival directions, former and current venues, tv stations, newspaper archives etc.)

- **Question of rights issues**
  many objects (posters, brochures, texts, interviews) originally created for festival use
  - What about these publication within an archival context?
  - How to proceed: online viewing vs. local viewing during events?

- **Availability of objects and information**
  Huge amount of media (hundreds of pages of press materials and reviews, applications, etc.) vs. gaps in object coverage (eg. objects and information lost with changes in festival direction and venue direction)

Materials and sources

⇨ Diversity of materials
- Festival programmes and brochures
- Timetables
- Press statements and reviews
- Advertisements, Posters, Postcards, Stickers, …
- Festival concepts and plans
- Images
  - press images
  - images sent for application
- Videos
  - videos of performances
  - festival ads and TV reports
  - interviews during festivals

⇨ Diversity of sources

- ITI archive
- ITI members
- festival makers and artists
- venues

The Project process

- Design of the concept for the digital archive
- Indexing of all productions, contributors, venues of the festival editions
- Research of further festival materials from the organising cities, venues, contributors
- Conducting of interviews with contemporary witnesses
- Organization and indexing of the collected information and materials from ITI and from other sources
- Import of the information into the digital archive
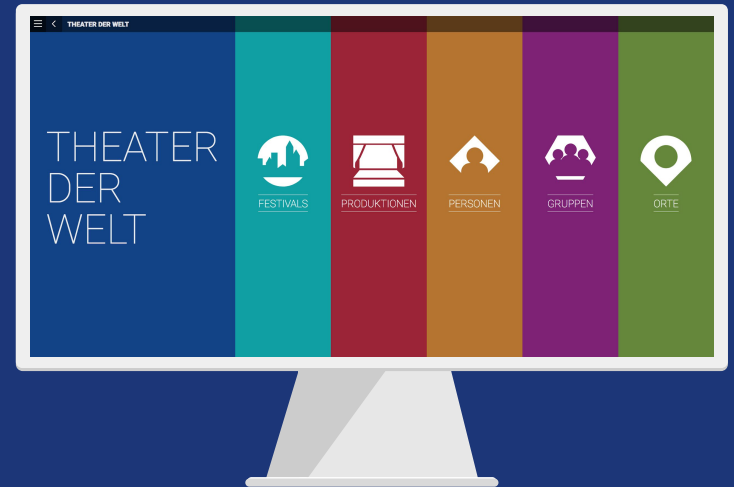- Development of the browsing application

⇨ What's the best data collection format to keep all the information and digitized objects?

⇨ What's the best visualization format for the existing information ?

⇨ What's the best approach to let the diverse sources of information speak?

The digital archive: 5 Entry Points

1   Festival editions

2   Performing Arts Productions

3   Artists

4   Performing Arts Groups

5   Locations and Venues

+   Cities, Countries, Performance Types, Contribution Roles

THEATER DER WELT

THEATER DER WELT

FESTIVALS   PRODUKTIONEN   PERSONEN   GRUPPEN   ORTE

Festivals

Data

- Festival cities and years
- Program direction, artistic direction
- Festival Descriptions
  - Aims
  - Statistics
  - Press
- Invited Productions (+ origin)

Media

- Festival programm
- Images
- Timetables
- Posters
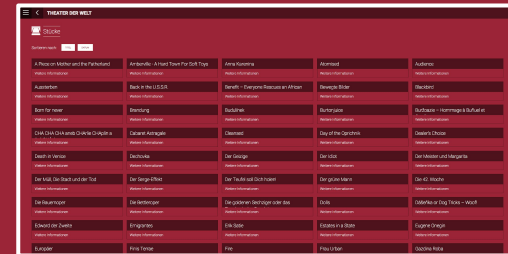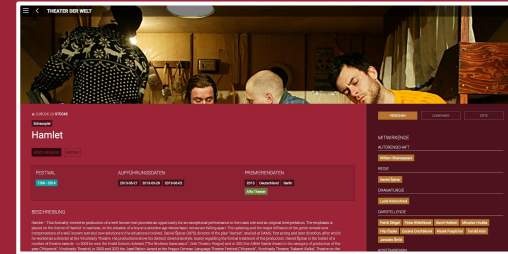- Advertisements
- TV/radio reports

Productions

Data

- Title, venues, performance dates
- Production type (performance, concert, installation, ...)
- Origin country, city, venue
- Companies
- Festival attendances
- Text description
- Artists
  - text authors, directors, dramaturgs, actors, dancers, stage designers, music, light, video, productions, ...
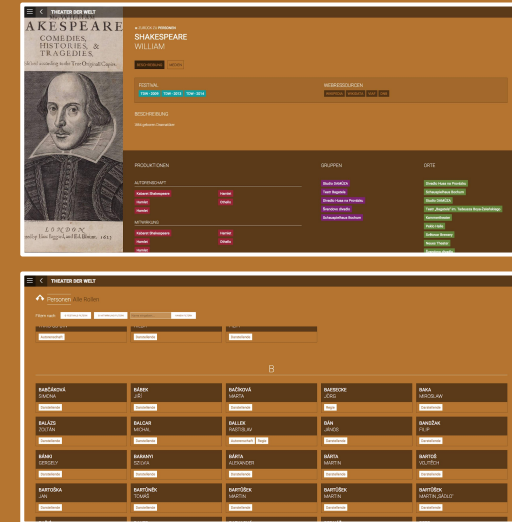
Media

- Images
- Video recordings

Agents / Artists

Data

- Name
- Text description
- Productions and participations
- Companies
- Venues
- Festival attendances
- Weblinks and norm data
  - Wikipedia
  - Wikidata, VIAF, GND
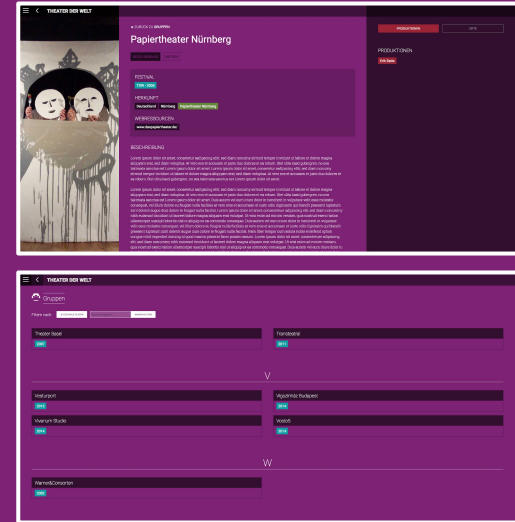
Media

- Images
- Interviews

Groups | Companies | Ensembles

Data

- Name
- Text description
- Productions
- Home venues
- Festival attendances

Media

- Images

Locations | Venues

Data

- Name
- City, Country
- Former names
- Resident companies
- Productions
  - originated at the venue
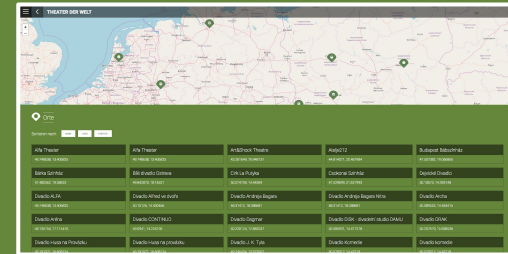 - performed at the venue
- Festival inclusions

Media

- Map
- Images

Data

- Mostly collected from festival brochures, websites, interviews
- Collected by 3 people over 8 months

Festival editions	Productions	Artists
15	**450**	**5.000**
1979-2017	main festival programme only (for now)	+300 Companies +500 Venues

Added information

- Annotations of the productions:
  - Mostly collected from festival brochures
  - Shall give an insight view into the perception of theatre at the time

- Annotation of the contributors:
  - Almost no information within the festival materials
  - Planned: complement with Wiki-Data

- Description of the festivals:
  - Mostly collected from press releases, reviews, interviews
  - Meant to give a retrospective, "neutral" view, without advertising

Technology

- Linked Data storage / Graph database
- Currently being remodelled based on EDM and ECLAP data models
  - eg. edm:Event, edm:Place, edm:Agent
  - eg. eclap:director, eclap:performingArtsGroup, eclap:firstPerformanceDate
  - added classes and properties for festivals
- Any kind of object and media can be linked to any resource
- Single page frontend for desktop and mobile
- Web hosted and locally hosted during future events

Plans / Outlook

Application

- Webapp for mobile devices
- Entity search
- Image viewing using IIIF integration
- English interface translation
- Visualizations of festival statistics and coverage
- Added object centric interfaces and search
- Open online API for usage of project data

Structure and Model

- Production <-> Performance differentiation within the data model
- Object description using EDM CHOs

Archive

- additional material sources
- collection of interviews, viewpoints and statements
- collaboration and connection with other archives and institutions

Thank You