

The student of the Opera

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Abstract

Every year in France, more than 120,000 young people aged 16 to 25 "drop out" of the school system, without a diploma or qualification. This will increase unemployment and precariousness. Educational failure is a social issue that today mobilizes civil society: cultural institutions, economic actors... But how can we intervene in schools when we are not dependent on national education? By the "artists' entrance"!

In the name of culture for all, art at school aims to fight against school dropout, by allowing students to cultivate their taste... the taste to learn. For three years, the Pôle de développement culturel of the Opéra national of Lyon conducted a large-scale artistic experiment in the Minguettes district in the suburbs of Lyon, with a school and a college: this scheme, entitled Opera at School, was financed in particular by the corporate foundations of the Total group and France Télévisions. Artists worked with 600 students, adopting the academic rhythm. For their part, the teachers had to adapt to the demands of the show. This project was also that of the Opera... at school: in other words, of an artistic institution which will have exercised, during three years, its cultural development activity within an educational institution. One question remains: the Opera does not go to school to learn... but to "make people learn". So, who's the opera student? School, was financed in particular by the corporate foundations of the Total group and France Télévisions. Artists worked with 600 students, adopting the academic rhythm. For their part, the teachers had to adapt to the demands of the show. This project was also that of the Opera... at school: in other words, of an artistic institution which will have exercised, during three years, its cultural development activity within an educational institution. One question remains: the Opera does not go to school to learn... but to "make people learn". So, who's the opera student?