

Swiss Contact Improvisation Teacher's Exchange - CILAS CILAS 2010 in Geneva

5 years ago Adrian, Martina und Muriel organized the first swiss CI-teacher's exchange in Zurich. Ever since, this meeting has been organized every year. Hosting city for the 2010 edition was Geneva. On 23rd and 24th of January 2010, about 15 swiss teachers coming from all over Switzerland came together in the "studio de l'adc, maison des Arts du Grütli", a beautiful space in the very center of Geneva.

The organizing team (Alain, Elinor, Julien and Paola) decided to give only a rough structure to the event (opening circle / morning and afternoon labs), leaving the participants enough space to express their needs. The Geneva team also organized some community activities, like the common dinner in the evening and the sauna on the lake Geneva on Sunday morning, before the labs. Also, the participants were invited on Saturday after the labs, to join the local regular jam, who takes place in the same space.

So we had the opening circle, several other circles all over the week-end, a common warmup on Saturday morning (where everyone would add some personal instructions) and various and interesting labs (use of hands in CI, networking, administrative questions, CI and performance, use of humour in teaching etc.).

And once again we can observe that, as much as important the content of the labs can be, the exchange moments, the cohesion, the possibility to get to know each other better and the expressed urge to organize ourselves (possibly!) in a more open community within the different swiss regions, the sharing - that is what makes such a meeting an interesting, stimulating, enriching experience.

Thanks to the presence of the CILAS participants at the regular Geneva jam on Saturday evening (every Saturday from 6 to 8pm), this jam became the biggest and most impressive jam ever since the regular jam has been organized in Geneva! And it is important to notice, that since the CILAS 2010 meeting, the jam in Geneva has taken off massively!

This should prove that our decision to do CILAS 2011 close to Locarno (South of Switzerland), where Contact Improvisation is present but has some difficulties taking off seriously, should help giving Contact Improvisation a better visibility in that area. As a matter of fact, all the participants of CILAS recognized the importance to support with our presence the CI community in that area.

And finally, although we regularly come together to talk about the organization of the Geneva jam, it was the first time that the Geneva CI teachers community worked together a whole week-end in such ways. What a great and stimulating opportunity!

Paola Gianoli - Geneva