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Mutation storms four cities...

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LAST Thursday, two gentlemen who later introduced themselves as artistes from Germany with their Nigerian counterpart paid a media visit to the *Vanguard* Arts Desk , not just to familiarize themselves with the Nigerian media but basically, to unveil the purpose of their mission to the country which has to do with a project that is likely to change the face of the world theatre." We are in Lagos here to do some kind of ground work, preparatory to a major production that will happen in January next year . We have come to fine -tune how we can work together with a couple of Nigerian artistes, actors, actresses, directors and some German actors as well in a project that will involve four cities selected from the four continents namely: Richmond/Virginia, in United States, Buenos Aires - Argentina, Lagos in Nigeria, Shanghai in China and of course, Berlin "they disclosed.

The project titled *Mutation Workspace* further narrated the gentlemen who gave their names as **Cieslak** and **Zehu kluth** is an international website as well as a theatre project on globalization and life as it affects major cities across the world. According to the spokesman, Cieslak the emerging new civilization which seems to have cut across the globe remains the point of focus of mutation workspace. As a major project initiated by as Germany-based theatre outfit ;**Lubricat Theatre Company**, the project is billed to explore the services provided by the internet to promote artistic productions worldwide." Lubricat is a theatre company based in Berlin. The outfit is committed to working out the possibility of connecting four cities across the world on the basis of internet usage to produce the arts ". The project disclosed , Cieslak who also is the artistic director of the group is a kind of new drama, where people regardless of race will be required to write about their everyday experiences , observations as well as circumstances surrounding their localities while exploring the gains provided by the use of the internet " What we intend doing is to create on the basis of this project a connection among the selected cities and create on the archives about everyday life in each of the cities "He stated. Continuing he said "we have set up already in each of the cities a core group of writers and also, we have set up some worksheet and how we are going to proceed in each of the cities and produce the kind of -performance we want ".

According to Cieslak , 120-day preparation trips to all the four cities involved in the project which he said began since mid- February terminates in this month of May , with Lagos being their last port of call. This , he explained is to enable them present the local project in more organized form , preparatory to the final production in Berlin , Germany in September , 2004. Mutation. Cieslak emphasized is mainly developed via the internet technology , the very medium which is the driving force of globalization . The old medium theater narrated Cieslak uses these new productive energies and enters a process of transforming its theatrical practice. The real local production in theatre he said share the common virtual production space of mutation workspace as a context for reference. This is where according to him four cities selected from the four continents are billed to work on a common matrix of topic "living in a city ".

Already, preparations regarding content for participants and visitors of the mutation at the project workspace started since June, last year. The project according to Cieslak is in contrast with many of the international forums on the internet. The artistic director of the lubricat theatre company noted that mutation is actually a platform for discussion and a complex, structured matrix to collect materials from the personal experience of individuals in their environment.

Explaining how they intend to go about the project, he said that in each of the four selected cities there will be four local artists from Berlin getting together with local artists to work on "our life and our personal experience in and around our environment."

The aim, he said, is to develop one unique performance in each of th cities which will be presented at local level before the final production in Berlin . The development of these performance stressed Cieslak will in their content , form and aesthetics be based on the local conditions and situations. He further

disclosed that the performance which is largely described as "a crossover of theater performance, film, exhibition, discussion and lecture amongst others in the light of the different artistic and social experiences of the partners in their respective cities will also differ in degree." We will produce a performance in other cities besides Lagos. "In Lagos, we intend to produce a kind of video "Cieslak explained adding that the reason for the decision is informed by the kind of environment they found in the country and more so ,the fact that Nigerians are usually in love with watching video productions. The project he said is to terminate in Berlin, Germany in September, next year. with all the intending four productions and artistic materials assembled all over the world united in a single event to be presented in Berlin and other cities to be determine by the organizers.

Meanwhile the local production of the project is slated to hold next year in Ghana. Mutation is the project of the actors that make up the lubricat theater company in Berlin, Germany.

The project is supported by the government of the Federal Republic of Germany. The initiator of the Project Lubricat Theatre company founded since 1989 have been in the forefront of developing and devising means of packaging their own version of contemporary theatre practice. Mutation said Cieslak is expected to enhance the use of internet as a tool to promoting the arts as well as signaling a new dawn in the global quest for technological advancement.