

Our gateway to Asia: on 8 January 2007, Pro Helvetia is opening a liaison office in New Delhi. The new office will give those in the Swiss cultural sector easier access to a country whose rich culture is often brimming with contradictions, and to an arts scene that has high expectations on the cultural exchange with Switzerland. You can find out more in the interview with Chandrika Grover Ralleigh, Head of the New Delhi office, and in the contribution by Tilmann Waldruff. We are also pleased to present the latest edition of our cultural magazine "Passages", which is dedicated to the Indian subcontinent - so familiar, yet different - and its relationship with Switzerland.

This Newsletter also outlines a series of opportunities and a competition for creative artists as well as reminders of projects in which Pro Helvetia has been involved in terms of financial backing, organisation or expert assistance.

Pro Helvetia Communications

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## LATEST NEWS

### Pro Helvetia opens liaison office in New Delhi - interview

At long last: on 8 January, the first Pro Helvetia office in Asia will open its doors. Chandrika Grover Ralleigh, the woman in charge, tells us about the work involved in setting up the office and gives an insight into her plans. **Find out more...**



### Compagnie Drift to appear at New Delhi theatre festival

The grand opening festivities will kick off with a performance by Swiss dance ensemble **Compagnie Drift** of their work "Hell's Bells and Furtive Folly" in New Delhi on 8 January 2007. Bizarre images from the medieval world reflect a society whose emotions veer wildly between drunken comedy and a realistic fear of death. Compagnie Drift has been invited to appear at the 9<sup>th</sup> "Bharat Rang Mahotsav" festival, a celebration of the best in global theatre, before taking the work on tour to Bangalore, Kolkata and Mumbai. More on the festival: [www.nsd.gov.in](http://www.nsd.gov.in)



### Open stage for Swiss culture in Lyon and Rhone Alps

From 12 January to 31 March 2007, Pro Helvetia, Presence Switzerland and the Swiss Consulate General in Lyon will be collaborating with a variety of partners to bring Swiss art and culture to the Lyon and Rhone Alps region under the title of "La belle voisine" (The Beautiful Neighbour). Over 300 artists, performers and creative talents will appear at a total of 160 events in 16 towns and cities. Pro Helvetia hopes to strengthen the contact between the two neighbouring regions of Rhone Alps and Switzerland through this wide-ranging programme. **More...**

The programme in full: [www.labellevoisine.fr](http://www.labellevoisine.fr)



### Concrete art past and present

The fourth and final part of this year's "Aller-Retour" series at the Centre culturel suisse de Paris is dedicated entirely to painting. From 3 December 2006 to 11 March 2007, the sons and daughters of abstract art will be exhibited opposite the concrete artists of their parents' generation. To add a further contrast, paintings by three artists who work in the figurative tradition will also be on display. Find out more at [www.ccsparis.com](http://www.ccsparis.com)



### Jazzin' all over Switzerland

From 11 January to 10 February 2007, the "Suisse Diagonales Jazz" festival will bring powerhouse jazz to 20 locations throughout Switzerland. From Basel to Riva San Vitale, from Geneva to Chur, ten young jazz formations will be travelling the length and breadth of the country giving audiences a powerful demonstration of the quality and diversity of the current Swiss jazz scene. Pro Helvetia is helping to organise and fund the festival. The full programme can be found at: [www.diagonales.ch](http://www.diagonales.ch)



## PUBLICATIONS

### Passages 43:

For topical reasons, the latest edition of the Pro Helvetia Magazine "Passages" is devoted to the subject of "India and Switzerland". It explores the background against which collaboration in the cultural field will take place. What drives cultural life in India? How do Swiss artists view this land of many religions, where some 179 languages are spoken? **You can order your own personal copy here (D, F, GB) or download the magazine in pdf format...**



## THE ARTS COUNCIL

### New complaints procedure

On 1 January 2007, the appeals procedure for those applying for funding from Pro Helvetia will change. As from this date, challenges to decisions must be lodged directly with the new Federal Administrative Court in St. Gallen, which is the final court of appeal. **This way for legal assistance (in German)...**

## DEBATE

### A liaison office in India - opportunities and limitations

With the opening of its New Delhi office, Pro Helvetia is starting a new chapter in the history of cultural exchange between India and Switzerland. What does this commitment mean in terms of international cultural work? Tilmann Waldraff, former Regional Director of the Goethe Institute in South Asia, hazards a guess at what lies in store for the new Pro Helvetia office. **Read on...**

## TIPS

### Artist in residence in 2008/2009

The Pro Helvetia liaison offices invite Swiss-based creative talents from all artistic disciplines to apply for a place on the 2008/2009 artist-in-residence programme. Residencies of three weeks to six months are possible in Egypt, South Africa, India, Poland, the Czech Republic and the Baltic States. You must: have a convincing track record in the arts, be willing to engage with the culture of the host country, be receptive to new contacts and have good language skills. **You can find all the application documents here...**



### Work grants for writers

For 60 years now, Pro Helvetia has been awarding work grants to writers in Switzerland. The financial contribution of 10,000-40,000 Swiss Franks allows them to devote themselves entirely to their writing for a limited period. Applications for 2007 will be accepted up to the end of this year. **Read more...**



### New compositions for dance performances

Each year, Pro Helvetia commissions new pieces of work from a number of musicians. In 2007, for the third time, the Arts Council of

Switzerland will provide financial support for new compositions written especially for dance companies. The deadline for applications is 1 February 2007. **Terms and conditions of participation here...**



#### **Young theatrical talents at the Berliner Theatertreffen**

The International Forum at the Berliner Theatertreffen, a renowned celebration of German-language theatre, brings together a large number of young theatre professionals from around the globe each year. The 2007 workshops, lectures, discussions and performances will explore the idea of "Political Theatre". Anyone working in the theatre in Switzerland who is interested in taking part should apply to Pro Helvetia by 31 January 2007. Applicants must be 35 or under and have sufficient knowledge of spoken German. **More...**

Details on the 2007 International Forum at: [www.internationales-forum.de](http://www.internationales-forum.de)



The experience of a participant at the 2006 International Forum:

**Interview with actress Anna Geering...**

#### **Shanghai 2010: Project competition**

China is on everyone's lips. Pro Helvetia is looking for partners for a cultural programme. And its sister organisation, Presence Switzerland, is looking for ideas for the Swiss pavilion at the World Expo in Shanghai. This anonymous, interdisciplinary project competition is aimed at teams of architects, artists, scenographers and communication experts. This is your chance to give Switzerland a new face - in Asia. Find out all about the competition at:

[www.schweizerpavillon-expo2010.ch](http://www.schweizerpavillon-expo2010.ch)



## COLOPHON

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Pro Helvetia supports and promotes Swiss culture in Switzerland and throughout the world.

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