



Paris, November 22nd, 2006

Festivals prepare to face new challenges

France Festivals, an association whose members include more than 84 of the largest music festivals, presented during the symposium « New Territories for Festivals », organized at the Abbey of Epau on November 16th and 17th, the findings of a study ordered by France Festival and conducted by Emmanuel Négrier, researcher at the CNRS (National Center for Scientific Research).

From a sample of 76 music and 10 dance festivals, an analysis of the attendance records from 2003 to 2005 showed an increase of 8%. The employment of 18,000 performers, of which two-thirds were French, shot up by 13%. In 2005, the performance of musical creations was considerable with 105 world premieres and 104 French premieres. The strong involvement of local and regional governments (departments, regions, local towns and cities) in the support of festivals explains the significant presence of public funding (approximately 45% of revenue). Private sponsorship made up 12% - a significant figure but little changed. Funding from the national government (6%) remains unchanged, although fewer festivals benefit from this funding.

The various debates were attended by more than 180 professionals from the cultural world, as well as elected officials and academics. Some important themes appeared during the debates:

- 1- In order to respond to the requirements from public funders and the need to develop artistic and cultural projects in a timely fashion, it seems that today is it preferable to develop the use of multi-year agreements that define the objectives and the means to be made available.
- 2- In order to help festivals cope with increasingly complex management needs, France Festivals must increase its expertise in several areas : tax law, labor laws, copyright and royalties law.
- 3- France Festivals will develop its contacts with other networks (European Association of Festivals, AFIJMA, Le Living, Zone Franche) in order to better observe and react in partnership with others concerning common issues and problems.

In a rapidly changing world, festivals are at the heart of cultural policy.

Press contact : Anne Gueudré
+33 (0)1 55 86 03 82
+33 (0)6 60 51 03 82
anne.gueudre@wanadoo.fr

*P
R
E
S
S*

*R
E
L
E
A
S
E*