



The art of creative passion

Ed Spanjaard

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If you are a creative producer, what is the best approach to engaging with an inspired artist? And how can you develop your own vision and define your own position in the process?

Last year, students from the Production and Stage Management course worked together with theatre maker and AIR Paul Koek. This time it was the turn of conductor and AIR Ed Spanjaard. It was another stage in the course's ongoing research into the changing role of creative producers and stage managers in the cultural field.

During his residency at the school in the autumn of 2011, Spanjaard conducted Ravel's *Valses Nobles et Sentimentales* as well as the more modern *Déserts* Varèse by Varèse. The subjects of these works were incorporated in workshops on costume, set design, video and sound. These culminated in *Paradigmata*, a theatrical installation. At the opening of the installation at de Theaterschool, Conservatorium student Wouter Bergenhuizen played *Valses Nobles et Sentimentales* on the piano. Sometime later, part of the installation was put on view at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, where Spanjaard conducted the orchestral version of the same piece.

Ed Spanjaard is one of the Netherlands' greatest classical conductors. He studied piano and conducting in Amsterdam and London. His debut conducting the Concertgebouw orchestra was a remarkable success. Spanjaard has given many world premieres with the Nieuw Ensemble, and he is also involved in the Atlas Ensemble, which was formed by musicians from all over the globe. As an opera conductor, Ed Spanjaard has worked at the Dutch Opera, Amsterdam; the Opéra National de Lyon, the Nationale Reisopera, Enschede; Opera Zuid, Maastricht, and Opera in Ahoy, Rotterdam.

'I see the central subject of inspiration as having a clear parallel with the work of Varèse, a composer who was explicit in his engagement with the searching artist in himself.'
Bart Visser, video workshop leader

'Research? To me it's more like a big sweet jar, or Obelix' cauldron of magic potion – although it is one that you have to fill up yourself.'
Barbara Westra, maquette and set workshop leader

'Your hands, eyes and ears have now been opened by the workshops. This has been a key experience in your development as a professional.'
Geert Oddens, audio workshop leader