



artists in context

6th programme 2005-2006

The *artists in context* programme is an initiative of the Pépinières européennes pour jeunes artistes.
It comes within the framework of the European voluntary service.
The programme benefits from the partnership of the host organisations and the national co-ordinators.
It is financed by the European Commission (DG education and culture),
the French Ministry of Culture, the French Ministry of Youth.

**St James Cavalier,
Valetta, Malta**



presentation of the host organisation

- **name of the host organisation** St James Cavalier
- **person in charge of the organisation** Mr. Christopher Gatt
- **address** Centre for Creativity
- **post code / city** CMR 11 VALLETTA
- **country** MALTE
- **phone** +356 212 23 200
- **fax** +356 212 23 218
- **e-mail** info@sjcav.org
- **web site** <http://www.sjcav.org>

- **person responsible for the follow-up of the artist**
M. Michael Fenech, mike@azad-malta.com
- **the organisation's team**
total number of staff: 30
staff members and volunteers directly involved in the project: 4
- **duration and dates of the residency**
6 months, from March 1st to August 28th 2006
- **location of the project**
in the municipal workshops or in the area of the old city centre
- **fields of expression proposed for the residency**
all artistic disciplines
- **number of artists who can be hosted**
1
- **other artists hosted in residency during the *artists in context* programme**
yes



artistic project

- **general description of the artistic projects developed by the host organisation**

St James Cavalier, Centre for Creativity, first opened its doors to the public in 2000. As the Maltese Government's Millennium Project it has taken on the role of pushing forward Malta's cultural aspirations. With a strong commitment to supporting the contemporary creative scene, the Centre's philosophy is to take in, reflect and support the country's traditional and historical heritage and culture. Since its creation St James Cavalier has welcomed both local and foreign artists, writers, singers and actors, dancers, musicians as well as thinkers, scientists and other creators. It has staged operas and premiered plays, held major exhibitions of contemporary pieces as well as past masters.

- **means provided by the host organization to facilitate interactions with the human, social and economic contexts**

St James Cavalier will offer the volunteer various occasions to meet people from different social and cultural background (children from refugee centre, handicapped people, neighbourhood...) through its general activities with these people usually excluded from contemporary art fields.

- **description and objectives of the project(s) in which the artist will take part**

1. project of the host organisation in which the volunteer will be involved

As an active agent of the association, the volunteer will participate in the organisation of the formation workshops, in the area of his competencies.

- workshops in the creative and expressive arts for children from refugee centres; they will be exploring aspects of the performing arts as well as working on clay, modelling, collage and painting.
- percussion workshops with children from depressed areas
- collaboration with the association "helptheblindartist"; every month 15 minutes of performing arts will be featured at a venue. The volunteer will be invited to join them and participate in the creation of a short video promotion which aims at convincing people from depressed areas to go to the theatre for a cheap price.

2. frame in which the volunteer will realise his personal project (according to the structure's objective) a number of possibilities

These various activities will allow the volunteer to understand better the context of life in Malta and to make some artistic proposals in response to this environment. The volunteer can also develop some projects with the Alexandria public Library, in an open sight (opera) or with a british theatre company.

- **target community of the volunteer's project**

Valletta Children, refugee children, disabled people

- **artistic and social effects of the project which are expected**

projects that join creativity and community, whether these is the traditional culture-oriented public or that part of the community which is not usually concerned about cultural activities

- **required language(s)**

English



- **experience / special skills needed to realise the project**

As the management staff is small, all volunteers must have initiative and be capable of working on their own.

The volunteer must enjoy working flexible hours and with limited facilities. This is a hands-on-situation where being imaginative and learning to work with very few tools/amenities is essential to the job.

- **human resources which will enable the artist to develop his project**

The volunteer's programme will be monitored by the general manager Chris Gatt (background in marketing, journalism, accountancy and twenty years experience as a theatre director).

- **technical material at the artist's disposal**

As explained above the artist is expected to work with very limited facilities and on a very restricted-budget

pc computer

mac computer

- **description of the working place set aside for the artist**

St James Cavalier is a 16th Century fort that has been converted into a centre for creativity. It is a popular venue wit both young and old Maltese as well as a tourists and has a varied and exciting programme of events. Working on a flexible system of programming that reacts to the needs of the moments, the centre is the country's main contributor to the contemporary art scene.

- **means at disposal to present the volunteer's finished work**

The centre has a number of exhibition and performance spaces which can be utilised.

description of the residency

- **description of the premises of the host organisation**

The building embodies a part of Malta's history. After the laying of the foundation stone of the city named after the Grand Master who led the Order's defensive battles, the first structures to be constructed within the city walls were the Church dedicated to the adjacent two Cavaliers of St James in 1565 on the landward side of the city. St James Cavalier was conceived primarily as a utilitarian building, indicative and typical of its military strategic function.

- **cultural, artistic and social environment in which the premises are established**

The centre works both on a micro-local community level and on a macro-national level. Malta is a very small country (316 sq km) and it is very easy to go from the local to the national level and vice-versa. As the centre is located in the heart of the Capital next door to the prime minister's office, this gives the institution a particular role offering a unique perspective to all the creative events held at St James. Malta is going through many changes, social, political and economic. Culture must offer a constructive response to these changes, many of which are feared or misunderstood by the community.

- **description of the means of accommodation and the distance from the working place**

Either use of a studio at the Manoel Theatre, separate accommodation, or living with a host family.

- **food**

The volunteer will be fed either in their restaurant or will be given subsistence of Lm5 (Five Malta Lirir) a day to cover food, or, if staying with a host family, will eat with them.

- **transport**

Transport is by bus and cheap (approx .40 euros per journey and you can cross the country in 30 minutes. Taxis are much more expensive and not recommended except in emergency.

training

- **foreseen on-arrival training for the volunteer**

The volunteer will be integrated into the St James Team and the areas will be identified depending on competence. Prior to coming to Malta we will communicate by email.

- **centre of linguistic training close to the place of residency**

Language training can be provided in English and/or Maltese. There are a number of excellent training facilities, both privately and at the University of Malta. (English Language teaching is a major industry in Malta, second only to the UK in numbers and on a par with the UK as far as quality is concerned)