Making Festival Communities

-a survey on the use of web media to foster community experience

by Sonja van Kerkhoff, 2008
student: Masters of Media Technology, Leiden University,
The Netherlands, sonjavank@hotmail.com
www.sonjavank.com

The FaceDances project,
Woking Dance Festival, U.K.
http://www.wokingdancefestival.co.uk
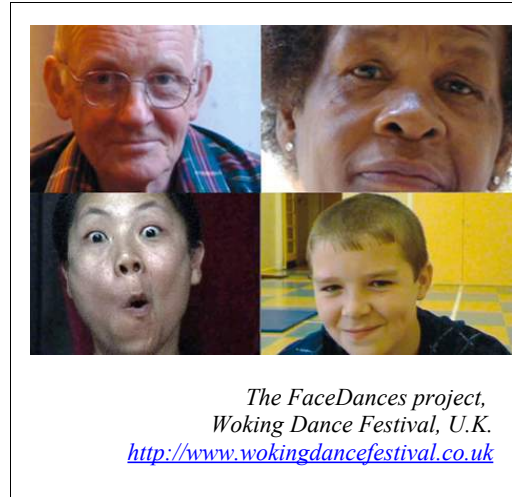
Abstract
A major difference between a festival and a series of performances is the experience of community created by the exchanges between the visitors and often between the visitors and the artists. Increasingly websites are becoming significant aspects of festival presentation or programming. Festival websites could also contribute towards the development of the relevant artistic community and of the art form itself by providing a platform for artists to contribute not only to the physical festival but also to the future development of the particular art form.

Artistic festivals in particular, as distinct from commercial festivals, have the ambition of extending the possibilities of the medium, as well as showcasing more familiar uses of the medium. I was interested in seeing how the festival websites are used to support communities or extend the medium. I have surveyed 66 websites, for international artistic dance, digital media, film, music and theatre festivals in Europe. Most of the websites were professionally made and had the standard website features. The focus is therefore on the functions beyond the presentation of festival information.
The results suggest that fostering community experience is more a matter of learning to use the networking potential of web-media than developing cutting-edge web applications or creating content. Assuming that the networking potential of web media is being utilised, innovative web applications are also useful for extending the artistic community.

Keywords: *artistic festivals, digital media, European, festivals, web-media, websites*

1. INTRODUCTION

My focus is on a sophisticated use of web technology, so I have selected festival websites which make use of what I call standard website features, as a minimum. First I go into some detail of the standard features festivals use to provide information, which is necessary before I touch on the two types of 'community' that could be fostered by festival web sites:

- the community centering on the festival itself and embracing the interested public, performers and organisers,

- the various artistic communities, for instance of dancers or jazz musicians, whose artistic disciplines may be affected by the opportunities the website gives them to experience one another's work, connect, provide feedback and be influenced.

I have only chosen festivals that are artistic[1] and international in orientation because my focus is on 'community' in relation to the development of artistic practice, and not just the 'community' within the geographical boundaries of the festival location.[2]

As this survey looks for the innovative use of web media, I selected websites to give a balance of diverse artistic forms, rather than seeking sites from all countries. Appendix one shows a table of the 66 festivals I examined. I used the wayback machine[3] where necessary. I generally examined the state of the websites throughout 2007 in order to gain a better overview and also because some festivals make differing use of web media during the festival periods.[4] For example, The Dutch Electronic Arts Festival provided live streaming with feedback possibilities only during the actual lectures[5]. Web technologies change rapidly, so websites before 2007 have seldom been included.

2. STANDARD WEBSITE FEATURES

Websites are primarily used by festivals to provide information, and those surveyed generally achieved this to a professional level. Although this section includes critiques of presentation and accessibility,[6] these are only for illustration. I have not attempted to systematically grade the sites on their use of the standard website features.

I have divided the standard features into the following: 2.1) basic and 'homepage' festival information, 2.2) content about the artists and their work, press-ready material, programme content or catalogue, 2.3) navigation + presentation in general, 2.4) an accessible archive of content about previous festivals, and 2.5) an electronic newsletter or some form of feedback and news.

2. 1   Issues related to the 'homepage' and basic festival information

Websites are a medium in their own right. The design needs to consider how fast a page appears as well as how easy it is for a visitor to view text and other items. Most festival websites I examined had a splash page: a page that usually loads quickly giving the visitor some options to choose.

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1 *"From the artistic point of view, festivals are an essential vehicle for the innovation and affirmation of daring artistic practices, for the furthering of the dialectic of the local and the global impulses and resources, for professional development, research, training and discourse advancement."* Dragan Klaic: "Festival", in Lexicon, *Performance Research*, 4, 11, 2006, p. 54-55. So here I've selected festivals where there is an opportunity for new work, either by direct submission, or that new work or work by unknown artists, is an element of the festival programming.

2 Festivals which are international in orientation will not only tend to have more resources for using web media but also a motivation. Having a means of communicating beyond a local, provincial or national level of contact, it also has a practical application, it means that these websites will have an English version, which makes it easier to access the websites, although, of course, in most cases I found more material in the national languages and if it was only available in that language, such as a forum only being in Italian, then I still could assess the functionality in general terms.

3 http://www.archive.org Many websites found using this application had missing elements, such as missing pages or images, so this method would not be useful for a systematic examination of pre or post festival website functionality, but it was useful for my research because I either found then the material hidden on the current website or it gave me enough information to see how it would have functioned.

4 The course I followed, 'The contemporary explosion of today's European Festivals' given by Dragan Klaic, referred to three stages in a festival calendar, pre, during and post festival organization, and so where possible I've looked at website at these 3 periods.

5 www.deaf07.nl, now, months after the festival, only a selection of streams are presented in the archival section of the website as *Real Media* films, while during the festival most events were streamed live.

6 Web application accessibility is a whole field in itself ranging from HCI (human computer interaction) to usibility standards set by committes such as the Web Standards Project (http://www.webstandards.org) and the w3 consortium (http://www.w3.org).

The main purpose of such a page is so that

i) a visitor is more likely to wait longer for the rest of the website to download, having had some impression and interaction, and

ii) it is a way of providing information specific to the visitors' choices. Other choices could be flash or non-flash websites or for different audience groups.[7]

Not all splash pages load quickly. Some websites had animations which you could click past, while other festivals led directly to a homepage which downloaded very quickly. A homepage is usually a more direct entrance to information than a splash page is and usually allows visitors to switch between languages on various pages. I make this point because most websites I looked at provided more possibilities and information or were more up-to-date in their native language than in English, and so often when I switched to the non-English page, I found information not otherwise available.[8]

For my 'standard features' the minimum a homepage needed were ways of finding:

i) what the festival is about (visually and/or via text)

ii) the festival location/s, dates and year

iii) ticketing info (prices, times)

iv) press info

v) something about the programme. (some idea of the content)

The Belgrade Dance Festival splash page where the visitor must choose between Serbian or English or can choose to download a PDF of the 2008 festival programme in either language.
www.belgradedancefestival.com

The Dublin Theatre Festival had no splash page but a homepage. Even though the animation was in flash it loaded very quickly, stopped when it was finished, and all festival information could be found with requiring the Flash player.
www.dublintheatrefestival.com

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7   There are no set rules. Some websites provide visitors the option of a non-flash website, other websites might have this built into pages so that visitors who already have flash go directly to the website which needs the flash player.
For websites I have designed, I needed to make splash pages for children who could read and those who were learning to read. So a splash page could offer more options as well, although in my small survey the only options I encountered were a choice of languages.

8   For this survey, I left out "literature" and "poetry" festival websites because the handful of websites I found, even ones with the title "international" in their name or promotion, were either only in the local language or focused on literature of that country. However my main reason for not considering this discipline was that the handful websites I looked at, none made full use of the 'standard website features.' I ommitted visual arts as a medium for this survey because of the same reason.

The Danza in Fiera (Florence Dance Festival) splash page from 2006, where there was also a short film of highlights in a pop-up window.

The 2007 website had the same film embedded into the page and so the film ran very slowly and the page took a long time to download.

Incidently, looking for this festival website in English resulted in coming to a blank page, because the 2007 festival website didn't contain any meta tags [9]
www.danzainfiera.it

The *International Mountain and Adventure Film Festival* website enabled visitors to find information via five film themes. High quality evocative film stills on all pages suited an 'outdoor' or 'nature' oriented audience, and each page allowed you to switch between languages. www.mountainfilm.com

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9 Although a technical issue, coming to a blank page for a visitor could have been the end of any chance of 'community' and this was due to a small technical omission. It seemed that the 2007 website had been copied and adapted from the professionally made 2006 website because my impression of the artistic level, due to the poor quality photographs and distorted film playback was low, until I saw the undistorted professional quality material on the 2006 website.
Website maintenance and search accessibility lie outside the scope of this paper.

2. 2   Content presentation of the programme or the artists' work

Most websites had an image and some text either describing the performance or providing some information about the artist or group.

What surprised me was that of the 66 websites in my survey, only a total of 12 dance, music, film or theatre websites showed any material in video or sound, and of the 19 new media or digital arts websites only 8 provided any direct links to videos or music. Most of these videos or sound tracks were to external locations such as Youtube or MySpace.[10]

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10 *YouTube* (www.youtube.com) is the most popular of the free video sources today. Its advantage is because it is so popular, it is relatively easy to find and to be found via YouTube's own search function. Its disadvantage is the low quality of the video and sound, but there are other free video hosts such as blip.tv, video.google.com + http://www.archive.org/details/movies which enable higher quality video hosting. Some of these other sites also have no advertising, spam or the copyright issues. I make a point here because for digital arts festivals, where the media of the festival is digital media, I am surprised that their own websites do not make more innovative or effective use of the media available. Another free and opensource *video blog* possibility is www.showinabox.tv

About one of ten artist pages on the Strp Arts and Technology Festival contained a link to a video hosted on YouTube. www.strp.nl

However the Portugese Festroia - Setúbal International Film Festival (http://23.festroia.pt) had high quality one to two minute videos or trailers of 27 films, with links to websites containing more information. Of all the websites in my survey, these videos made the most impact because they were long enough and of high enough quality to give a good impression of the film. Other film festival websites provided good film quality such as the Rotterdam Film Festival (www.filmfestivalrotterdam.com), but these were not always available and if they were, there were only a few films or just a few seconds shown.

The London Renderyard Film Festival site (www.renderyard.com) seems to aim to be a website that showcases films on its website via a membership system, however as of 22-1-2008 there were only about 13 low-to-medium quality films on the website.

2.3)   Navigation + presentation in general

Because I chose international festival websites, most were very well designed and functioned professionally. On most of the websites material could be accessed via various routes (such as having both a menu and links in the text, a built-in search function and /or alphabetical and themed listings). These diverse possibilities for finding content on the website indicate that the festival uses the website with a broad public in mind, while indicating a professional knowledge of web media.

One exception to this was the 2008 *Transmediale* website (www.transmediale.de) festival, where most pages linked to artist's names were blank or just German text, as in this illustration (below), even one week before the festival started.
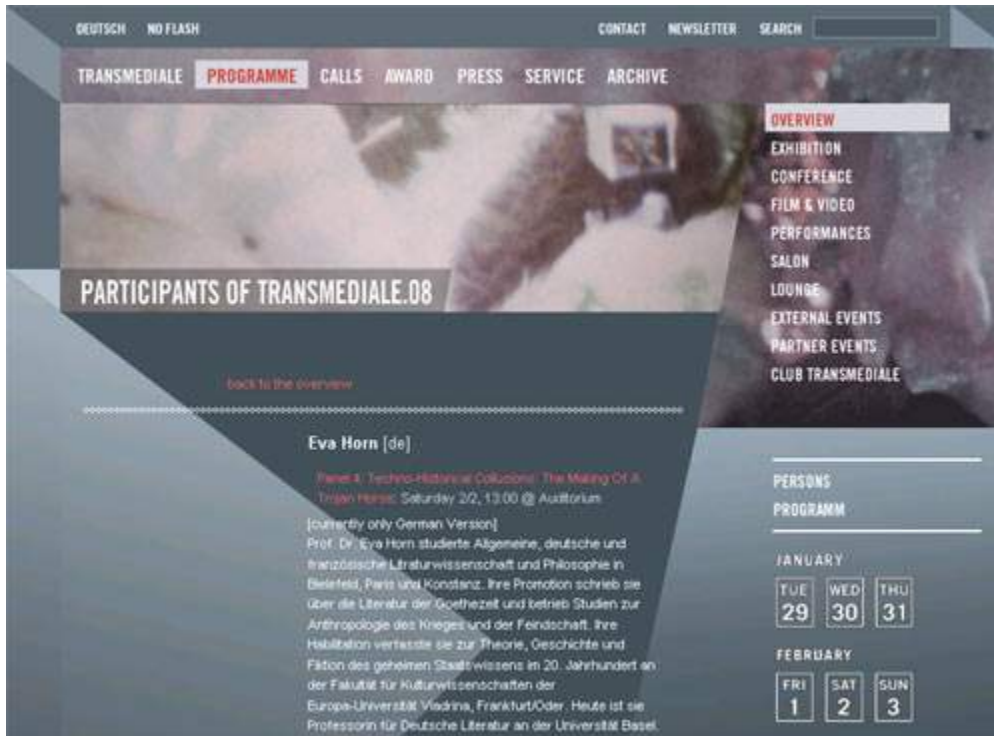
One of the artist pages on the Transmediale new media festival which only has text about the participant. This screenshot was made a week before the start of the 2008 festival. www.transmediale.de

Above: a detail of a screenshot of page on the 2008 Transmediale website as viewed in Firefox 2.0 showing how the linked text over the light grey background is barely visible. The page was accessed on 12-12-07, about 5 weeks before the start of the festival.

Right: a detail of a page on the 2008 Transmediale website as viewed in Explorer showing how difficult important information such as opening hours and prices are to read over the light grey background. The page was accessed on 20-1-07, a few days before the start of the festival.

I was surprised, because this is a major festival of digital arts in Europe. Admittedly in previous years the website for this festival was very informative. More importantly, most linked text was in red, over a grey background, making it very hard to read. If you enlarged the texts then sometimes

text was cut off. Another example of how accessibility is important issue for a website, is the *Danza in Fiera,* which had previously existed with the name Florence Dance Festival and then had been deleted so that a search yielded a blank page.[11]

2.4)   An accessible archive of content about previous festivals

I added this as a 'standard feature' to my survey because artistic festivals are largely showcases for new productions, so a website about a forthcoming festival might not be able to show examples of upcoming work. Looking at a previous festival archive enabled me to assess the quality of the festival. It is also usually an indication of a professional use of web media, although two exceptions to this are the Rotterdam Film Festival and the Cinekid (www.cinekid.nl) websites, both very professional websites, but neither have an archive about old festivals.

> *The AV festival commissions new work and there is very little in terms of festival content on their 2008 festival website two months (20-1-2008) before the festival dates. The archive gave me some idea of the quality of work to expect. www.avfest.co.uk*

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11 See footnote 9 for details. Actually, an empty page with the meta tag for this name existed, otherwise the search would not have found this blank page. Accessed on 20-1-2008.

2.5)   An electronic newsletter or some form of feedback and news.

It could be argued that providing feedback, such as a newsletter or a form for comments or feedback, is an aspect of community-building on a website, but I place this under 'standard features' because an electronic newsletter is not an effective way of fostering a festival community when it is used only for announcements or advertising as is most often the case.

3. WEB MEDIA AS AN EXTENSION OF THE FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE

As I mentioned above, web media can be used to foster community in two respects: i) the community centering on the festival event and embracing the interested public, performers and organisers, and ii) the community centering on the medium, going beyond the festival: an artistic community or a social 'audience.'

The homepage of the Cinekid festival accessed 12-12-07. www3.cinekid.nl

For example for the cinekid festival (www3.cinekid.nl), one community that the web media fosters for on the website are children. The interactive elements on the website are: i) for children who were at the festival (they can see themselves in some of the workshop videos, remember the films they submitted, and play with some of the applications they may have encountered on computer screens in the children's media lab), and ii) for children who have never heard of Cinekid. They can watch the films made by other children, watch videos about the workshops, play and interact with the web applications made by others or make one to leave on the website.

Even though this part of the Cinekid website is only in Dutch, this makes sense, given that the target audience operates in Dutch and would be unlikely to understand English.
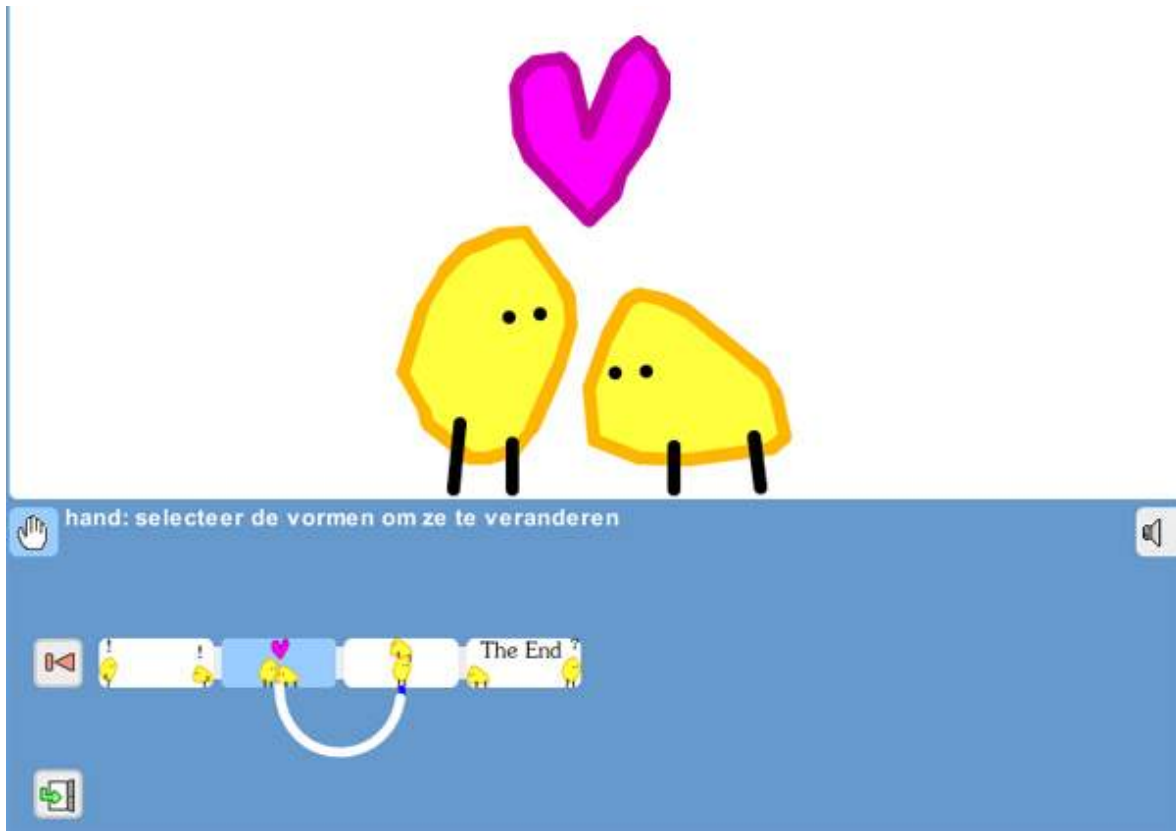
The moov.nl web application on the Cinekid website, where children could interact with the animation, changing the shapes and the sequence of events then save this, and add it to the website.

The "cinecast" page on the same festival site (http://xota.nl/cinecast/) is a blog, managed by an adult, which seems to have functioned mainly as a way of encouraging feedback about the festival and as the place where many videos about child participants or made by children were placed. The sense of community here centres on the events of the festival.

On the other hand, the blog on the *HollandDance* website (www.hollanddancefestival.tv) which is aimed at a teenage audience, focussed more on the 'community' of the artform than on the festival. Even though most comments tended to be brief reactions to a Youtube video of their friends in a workshop at the festival, there was some exchange of ideas. The forum run by Hidde (an adult), had more discussion. She asked what types of dance everyone did and got a number of comments. In response to her request for photographs to be posted of their own dance move, visitors posted photos and others made comments and discussed the moves in the images or videos. Here the community experience fostered by the festival website moved beyond the festival event. The discussion worked well on the blog and forum, mainly, because Hidde often responded to the comments, which in turn created more discussion.

Most festival blogs or forums tended to be active only during the festival. Blogs or forums where it was easy to add photographs or to embed videos were the most active. The *London TakeAway Festival* (www.takeawayfestival.com) blog seems to continue with a few postings per month while the Belgian website for the Almost Cinema in Pictures and Words Festival blog (www.vooruit.be/nl/community) has several postings a day (in Dutch). However this website functions as a location for a number of related festivals and events, so while it could be argued that the web media is fostering a 'community', this is less related to the physical festival to start with.

Generally when we think of the idea of 'community' this involves exchange and I started my discussion with an examination of festival blogs and forums because these are the only types of web media I've encountered in my survey where exchange occurs in some connection to a festival website. Some exchange occured via web media on myspace and YouTube festival pages, although in general visitors only left brief comments akin to those on blogs.

However, I found a few web applications that seem to extend not only the festival community but also the art form, such as *The FaceDances project* on the Woking Dance Festival website (www.facedance.co.uk). The website photos and videos brought a new dimension to choreography for me, as a layperson, but I imagine that some professionals might also find inspiration in the concept of the work or in seeing how various people "danced with their faces," which could contribute to the field.
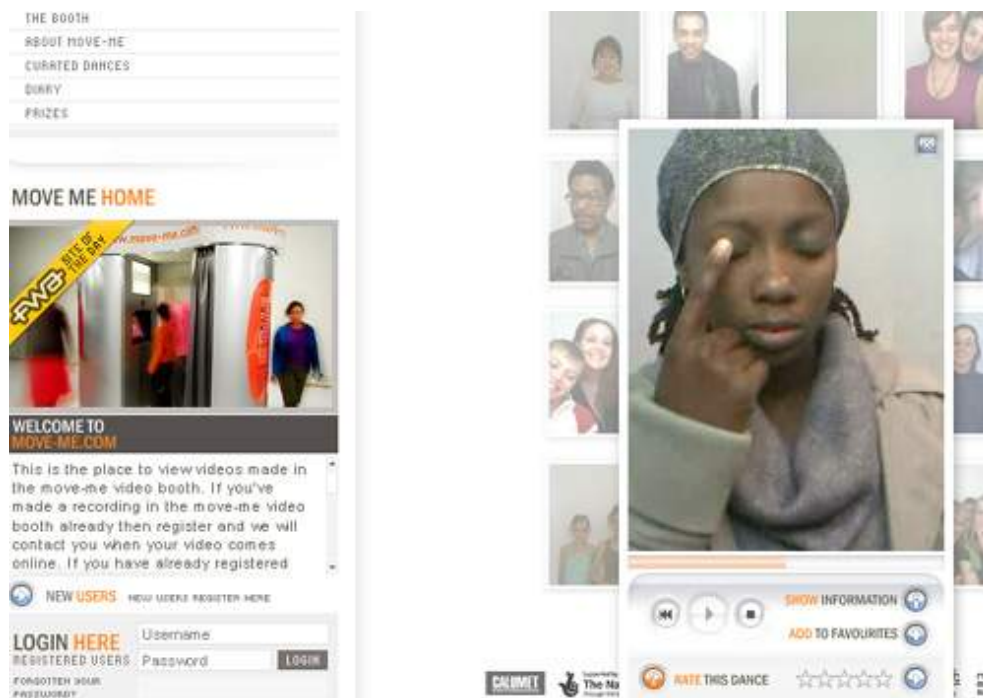
Detail of a page on Move Me Booth project that was linked to the HollandDance Festival website (www.move-me.com)

Another project was the *Move Me Booth* on the *Hollanddancefestival* website (www.move-me.com), where individuals in 4 booths around the festival location were videoed performing in response to instructions from a self-chosen choreographer, on how to move. The videos I watched gave me an impression of the audience at those locations, a great diversity of mostly young people. It was interesting to see how they interpreted the instructions. I am not suggesting any of these movements would be cutting edge or particularly innovative for professionals, but the context and presentation of this medium has that potential.
I also found some less innovative web features which might be more effective for the artistic community concerned. For example, the *Dublin Theatre Festival* (www.dublintheatrefestival.com) shows video or audio at a high enough technical quality so that professionals could be inspired, influenced or could engage with the material.

The audio clips (and on some pages, also text transcripts) from plays and concerts on this website present material probably unrecorded elsewhere. Understandably copyright is an issue, but when it comes to innovation, excerpts at a high quality are likely to be of a greater influence to other professionals than a longer piece at a low quality. Some music festival websites have their own flash player (making the material almost impossible to copy) such as the Sónar Festival (www.sonar.es) which has over 30 tracks of electronic music and soundscapes.

Detail of the interviews page, on the MISO Music Portugal festival website ([www.mic.pt/ingl/ interviews.html](http://www.mic.pt/ingl/interviews.html)).

Many pages had interviews (most were in English) available as high or low quality audio as well as text transcripts. Many interviews were divided into short sections, making them quick to download.

Detail of the interviews page, interview with Carlos Caires page on the International Rostrum of Electroacoustic Music festival website (www.mic.pt/ingl/interviews.html)

While the video interviews on the *International Rostrum of Electroacoustic Music festival* website (www.misomusic.com) had been removed, the text transcripts of the interviews with the composers were useful and possibly unavailable elsewhere. The menu of the website linked directly to various professional new music European organizations. Having links directly to relevant pages fosters the artistic community more than a general page of links.

I would argue that even the Cambridge International Super 8 Festival (www.cambridge-super8.org/films.html) has elements that contribute to its artistic community even though the website has an amateur look and feel (and google ads dominate down one side), because the facebook group it is linked to has active discussion for semi-professionals and there is a link to good quality videos of Super 8 films (via the podcast of on super8.org and their blip.tv channel). This suggests that fostering community experience beyond the festival is more a matter of learning to use the networking potential of web media than developing cutting-edge web applications or creating content. The medium of the web is to make connections, which in turn lead to content or inspiration.

However, I would argue that, assuming that the networking potential of web media is being utilised, innovative web applications are also useful for extending the artistic community. For example, the Rotterdam filmfestival site presents "New Arrivals," a collaboration between the International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) and the Dutch broadcasting company NPS. Filmmakers can submit a short film which is shown on the festival website. An editorial committee selects five films every month, a jury selects the monthly winner, all seven monthly winners will be shown at the upcoming 37th edition of the IFFR, with a prize for the winner. New Arrivals starts on the 1st of March 2007 and runs until November 2007. Here a website feature is directly facilitating new talent and new material for the next festival, and supporting the community of filmmakers.

A Survey of 66 European Artistic Festival websites
Websites were accessed between 15 November 2007 & 22 January 2008

If the website doesn't have the 2008 dates, then those for the latest known date were added.
I added websites for earlier than 2007 if the website was much better on an earlier website.
Most festivals have all of the 'standard features.' Exceptions are noted (in plain text) and these websites without the standard features were included because either previous festival websites met the criteria or because the festival is a major festival. New Media and Electronic Media are listed as Digital arts.
If another art form is a part of the festival, this is added in italics.
The media categories I listed here are: dance (7), digital arts (19), film (including video) (22), music (13), and theatre (including music for theatre and opera) (5).
All festivals are annual unless identified as a biennial in the *dates* column.
An 'open' blog means anyone can join via the website, while a 'closed' blog means visitors to the site cannot add material directly.

Alphabetical order of the discipline and then by country

Location	*Festival name /s*	*Media*	*Url (web address) + extra features*	*Dates*
			7 Dance Festival Websites	
Dublin, Ireland	**International Dance Festival**	Dance	www.dancefestivalireland.ie Performances are categorized in 3 extra ways: *for the novice* (introductory); *the enthusiast* (developed appreciation of contemporary dance); *the explorer* (for those who like a challenge or to take a risk)	17 April – 3 May 2008
Florence, Italy	**Danza in Fiera** Florence Dance Festival	Dance	www.danzainfiera.it The video trailer of the festival on the 2006 website is good, the one for 2007 has distorted playback (website technical error). *2006 site:* easy to find open blog in Italian only, which is actively used, several postings per month.	21 – 24 Feb 2008
The Hague, The Netherlands	**Holland Dance Festival**	Dance, *music with performance*	hollanddancefestival.com Focus is on a teenage audience: videos in Dutch, for and about youth: www.hollanddancefestival.tv *The HollandDanceFestival YouTube page* has 25 videos, one being an interview with a choreographer while the rest were aimed at or made by teenagers. *Holland Dance Festival Hyves* is only in Dutch and for a teenage audience. *'Blog van Hidde'*, is managed by an editor who responds to posts and brings up new themes. The open blog is still actively used *Under Press:* Trailers and YouTube videos, there are links to 8 videos of professional productions on YouTube and their own festival trailer is on their website. *Has an innovative Move Me Booth (link is only on the Dutch website version, although the project is in English)* www.move-me.com In a photobooth (at 4 locations close to the festival site), visitors could choose a choreographer who gave instructions (sometimes actual movements, sometimes asking the visitor to feel a particular mood or respond to a text). The visiter's response was recorded and put online. Site visitors could vote for the best one. These recorded movements were also in various shop windows during the festival. The English website version was incomplete with page errors.	*Biennial* 30 Oct – 18 Nov 2007
Maastricht,	**Dutch Dance**	Dance	nederlandsedansdagen.webtank.nl	5 – 7

The Netherlands	**Days**		E-cards advertising the event, people could send	Oct 2007
Belgrade, Serbia	**Belgrade Dance Festival**	Dance	www.belgradedancefestival.com No newsletter, not up-to-date	4 – 19 April 2008
Granada, Spain	**Granada International Festival of Music and Dance** El Festival Internacional de Música y Danza de Granada	Dance, music, opera	www.granadafestival.org Focus of the festival seems to be on dance.	22 June – 8 July 2007
Woking, U.K.	**Woking Dance Festival**	Dance	www.wokingdancefestival.co.uk *offsite extra: the Facedance project* *(www.facedance.co.uk) provides instructions and* support for organizations to use this project as a workshop for amateurs or professionals.	*Biennial* 13 March – 4 April 2007
			19 Digital Media Festival Websites	
Linz, Austria	**Ars Electronica**	Digital media, electronic music, film, animation.	www.aec.at Over 40 (wmv) videos of presentations and interviews. Most are in German. Innovative alternative elements in the navigation (playful interactive graphics)	4 – 9 Sept 2008
Gent, Belgium	**Almost Cinema in pictures and words** (It is possible that each year their festival has a different name)	Digital media film, games	www.vooruit.be They coordinate events in the performing arts + literature and festivals in new media. *Critical forum*: section on topical events related to any of the above disciplines, such as articles or papers or announcments. *Videos* via Youtube link. *Active open blog*: apparently systematically stimulated by an informal editor. *Own videos + audio in flash* and innovative use of video on the homepage.	8 – 20 Dec 2007
Berlin, Germany	**Garage**	Digital media	http://garage.in-mv.de/2005/ Last edition was in 2005 and many links yield errors. garage.in-mv.de Streaming player on many pages that doesn't work. I assume that it is active during events, however no informaton is given.	*Biennial* 22 July -13 Aug 2005
Berlin, Germany	**Transmediale**	Digital media + film, video	http://transmediale.de current website: only text and still images & one professionally made 44 second festival trailer	30 Jan - 3 Feb 2008
Hellerau, Germany	**CYNETart_08**	Digital media	body-bytes.de *'encounterblog':* postings by the festival organization with links to photographs + 9 videos. *Link to the festival YouTube page: www.youtube.com/* *cynetart*	*Biennial* 30 Oct – 9 Nov 2008
Weimar, Germany	**Backup_festi-val**	Digital media, film + video	www.backup-festival.de mainly text with a few small photographs	18 – 21 Oct. 2007

Osnabruck, Germany.	**European Media Arts Festival**	Digital media, film, video	www.emaf.de *Festival Videos:* 26 wmv files either streamed or to be downloaded. Awards, presentations, exhibition overview. Some high quality video interviews + clips.	23 – 27 April 2008
Amsterdam, The Netherlands	**Sonic Acts**	Digital media, computer art, sound, video, film	www.sonicacts.com Nothing on the website now (Jan 22, 2008). During the 2006 festival I watched some streamed events which were offered via www.balie.nl. + http://www.fabchannel.com. Sometimes some of these can be found with a search on those websites, but there is no easy way to find them. There is no link to any video or audio from the 2006 sonic acts website.	*Biennial* 21 – 24 Feb. 2008
The Hague, The Netherlands	**Today's Art**	Digital media, music, dance	www.todaysart.nl 'Festival Review': links to videos on http://video.google.nl (high quality video), YouTube www.spektakeltv.nl & a Dutch radio show.	21 – 22 Sept. 2007
Rotterdam, The Netherlands	**DEAF** (Dutch Electronic Arts Festival)	Digital media	www.v2.nl www.deaf07.nl *(closed) Blog:* interviews, reports 20 (realmedia) videos of presentations, interviews and projects. *Streaming:* More (realmedia) videos – some from the live streams during the festival. In previous festivals, I am not sure if this was the case for 2007, it was sometimes possible to contribute to a seminar via the internet and these messages appeared on a screen in the room live.	*Biennial* 10 – 29 April 2007
Eindhoven, The Netherlands	**Strp Festival of Art + Technology**	Digital arts, electronic music	www.strp.nl About 1 in 10 items has an embedded YouTube videos. Website has very small text which if you enlarge drops off behind the background.	22 – 25 Nov 2007
Utrecht, The Netherlands	**IMPAKT**	Digital arts, music, videos.	www.impakt.nl only still images and text on the website	7 – 11 May 2008
Nova Gorica, Slovenia	**Pixxelpoint**	Digital media, computer art	www.pixxelpoint.org only still images and text on the website	7 – 12 Dec 2007
Stockholm, Sweden	**pixelVÄRK Festival** electronic art & subcultures & a Swedish version of pixelACHE	Digital media	www.pixelvark.se only still images and text on the website but some artist pages link to music or video on their own websites or to their own myspace pages. Many pages are only in Swedish.	13 – 16 March 2008
Wroclaw, Poland	**WRO International Media Art Biennale**	Digital media, video, film	wrocenter.pl only text information on the current website. No link to an archive, although parts of earlier festival websites which had 'archive' as an option can be found via http://web.archive.org/web	*Biennial* 16 – 20 May 2007
London, U.K.	**TAKEAWAY** the Festival of do it yourself Media	Digital media, open source	www.takeawayfestival.com *'tkwblog'*: open blog, last post: Oct 07, with embedded videos from YouTube	9 – 11 May 2007

Manchester, U.K.	**Futuresonic**: Urban Festival of Art, Music & Ideas	Digital media, -some focus on public spaces + electronic music	www.futuresonic.com *carbon footprint research project:* asking visitors to fill in their travel + means of travel to the festival which would be part of one of the conference sessions. There was also some information + links for further information on the topic of carbon emissions. Although the website had a lot of clear information in text with small catchy stills, the only content in terms of digital media were: links to photos on Flickr in the archive of older festivals + the professionally made 44 sec trailer that didn't showcase any content of the festival.	1 – 4 May 2008
Nottingham U.K.	**Radiator Festival for New Technology Art**	Digital media, performance art	www.radiator-festival.org last edition was in 2005 News column (of touring commissions) on homepage is current. Only text + a few images on the website.	*Biennial* 28 Nov – 9 Dec 2005
Newcastle Gateshead, Sunderland & Middlesbrough U.K.	**AV Fest** International festival of electronic arts, music and moving image	Digital media, sound, visual, moving image	www.avfest.co.uk the interactive guide was just a web-version of the pdf, meaning you could move from static page to static page by clicking a button. No links nor other media available on the website. Archive was informative only via text + image.	28 Feb – 8 March 2008
			22 Film + Video Festival Websites	
Graz, Austria	**International Mountain and Adventure Film Festival**	Film	www.mountainfilm.com Website was last updated Nov. 2007. Extensive coverage of last festival and information about each film. Atmosphere reflects the audience of mountaineers / the outdoors / mountain cultures + film. 60% reduction travel voucher printable via the website.	7 – 10 Nov 2007
Vienna, Austria	**International short film festival**	Short Film/ video	viennashorts.com Only in German	16 – 23 May 2008
Vienna, Austria	**VIENNALE**, international film festival	Film/video	www.viennale.at *'Tell a friend'* application for each film.	17 – 29 Oct. 2008
Brussels, Belgium	**Anima 08** Festival du dessin animé	Film, animation film,	folioscope.awn.com/wordpress Forum: (open source: bbpress.com) Actively used by professional animators, and diverse. Mostly in French Not easily found: No meta tags.	1 – 9 Feb. 2008
Clermont-Ferrand, France	**International Short Film Festival** 2008	Film, video	www.clermont-filmfest.com Database of short films for *members only,* which costs €50 (per year) and is hard to find on the site.	1 – 9 Feb. 2008
Amsterdam, The Netherlands	**Cinedans** Festival	Film + video related to dance	www.cinedans.nl Has a facebook group +a YouTube page with some interviews + clips, and a few video interview on the website.	3 – 6 + 10 July 2008
Amsterdam, The Netherlands	**Cinekid**	Film, Television and New	www3.cinekid.nl *For children:* games and applications related to the festival ie, they can make and record their own movie	19 – 26 Oct. 2008

		Media Festival for and about Children	and submit it online. *Festival galleries:* videos of workshops, things children made during the festival. Some of these are interactive movies: you can play with them online or make your own (www.moovl.nl/). - only in Dutch *Cinecast:* a closed blog, mainly of news, *xota.nl/cinecast* *Film submissions by children in a child- friendly (flash) player: xota.nl/cinecast/flash.html.* Films can also be downloaded as mp4 files. *Professionals:* -info about expert meetings and examples of film-related web applications for children: i.e: http://www.zappmixer.nl	
Rotterdam, The Netherlands	**Rotterdam Film Festival**	Film, video	www.filmfestivalrotterdam.com The *'new arrivals' online podium f*or filmmakers was on the website in Nov, 07: short films could be viewed on the Dutch part of the website and voted on by the public. *During the festival in January the whole website focussed on the festival with one section for professionals and one for the general public.* The only films on the website are the winners of the 'new arrivals' submissions.	23 Jan – 3 Feb. 2008
Os, Norway	**Os International Film Festival**	Film + video	wt-festivalen.no The few videos on the site are professionally made trailers advertising the 2007 festival. The only 2007 programme information is in a PDF file. There is no information about the 2008 festival. No archive.	5 – 9 Nov. 2008
Grimstad, Norway	**Norwegian Short Film Festival**	Film + video	kortfilmfestivalen.no *Film submissions are via reelport (www.reelport.com), a server for uploading large files which a number of film festivals use.* All the (realmedia) films about filmmakers or about their films in the archive give errors. They have probably been removed.	12 – 17 June 2008
Tromsø, Norway	**Tromsø International Film Festival**	Film + video	www.tiff.no *Online playful festival catelogue (in flash)* you can turn the pages, enlarge pages or change it to a PDF and print it out.	15 – 20 January 2008
Haugesund, Norway	**Norwegian International Film Festival**	Film	www.filmweb.no/filmfestivalen2007 Archive is only linked in Norwegian	15 – 22 August 2008
Bilbao, Spain	**ZINEBI, international documentary and short film festival**	Film/video	www.zinebi.com	26 Nov – 1 Dec 2007
Valladolid, Spain	**Valladolid International Film Festival**	Film/video	www.seminci.es	26 Oct – 3 Nov 2007
Basel, Switzerland	**Viper**, Festival of film and New Media	Film + digital media	www.viper.ch Very little informaton and the website seems not to have been updated since 2006	*Biennial* 16 – 29 March, 2006

Location	Festival	Type	Website / Notes	Date
Zurich, Switzerland	**VIDEOEX** International Experimental Film & Video Festival	Film, video	www.videoex.ch	23 – 31 May 2008
Setúbal, Portugal (40km from Lisbon)	**Festroia - Setúbal International Film Festival**	Film	www.festroia.pt (site was under construction on 19-1-2008 + 22-1-2008) so I used the 2007 site: http://23.festroia.pt/ *Media:* 27 trailers or 1 to 2 min clips from films at a better quality than YouTube (Sabo.pt) *Poll for the website itself*	1 – 10 June 2008
Portimão and coastal locations, Portugal	**Algarve International Film Festival**	Film 35 mm only	www.algarvefilmfest.com	10 – 18 May 2008
Cambridge, U.K.	**Cambridge International Super 8 Festival**	Super8 film + animation	cambridge-super8.org The website with google ads has an amateur look + feel, but it functons professionally. *It is up to date with local events + touring events such as a 'The Best of Cambridge Super 8 2007'.* *Has a facebook group* which has tips + info for semi-professionals/ info + the discussion is active. *There's a link to good quality videos* of Super 8 films on the onsuper8.org podcast via their Blip.tv channel or via iTunes.	2 – 3 days in April or May 2008
Edinburgh UK	**Edinburgh International Film Festival**	Film /video	www.edfilmfest.org.uk *suggest-o-tron:* visitors fill in an online survey of interests and then it suggests films in response. *Professionals submit films via the online* withoutabox.com *service. Has RSS feed.**	18 – 29 June 2008
Leeds, U.K.	**Evolution**	Film, video, sound + visual art	www.lumen.org.uk/evolution2007	25 – 27 May 2007
London, U.K.	**Renderyard Film and Documentary Festival**	Film, video, animation	www.renderyard.com *Films submitted via a withoutabox form.* *Has a skills bank f*or members to submit material, CV of skills, for filmmakers to hire. *There are soundtracks by musicians.* *Videos are embedded in the artist pages. Membership to have a page and submit a film costs* £25 *6-monthly showing on the website of new best* 1-minute film in a year-round competition. Link to a blog on myspace that does not work.	19th – 23rd March 2008
			13 Music Festival Websites	
Innsbruk, Austria	**The Innsbruck Early Music Fesival**	Music	www.altemusik.at English: links don't work / out of date. German is current: news, *music samples from previous festivals.*	7 – 24 Aug. 2008
Vienna, Austria	**Akkordeon Festival, International Accordion Festival**	Music	www.akkordeonfestival.at *links to:* cds + links to sales + *listen to music on an alternative music CD site.*	26 Feb. – 28 March 2008

Brussels, Belgium	**ARS MUSICA** International contemporary music festival	Music	www.arsmusica.be Not updated regularly / chaotic layout /hard to find the dates of the next issue or location.	8 – 25 April 2008
Rotterdam, The Netherlands	**North Sea Jazz Festival**	Music	www.northseajazz.nl Links to audio + video interviews + segments on http://sites.nps.nl/jerome/templates/musicportal/north seajazz2007.html	11 – 13 July 2008
Bergen, Norway	**Bergen International Festival**	Music, literature, theatre, dance, opera & visual art.	http://www.fib.no *Up-to-date* information of the festival, on the city, its history, and invited artists.	21May – 4 June 2008
Harstad, Norway	**Hålogaland International Country Musikk Festival**	Country music	www.halogaland-countryfestival.com music: one mp3 clip of most artists on the website player.	21 – 21 June 2008
Tromsø, Norway	**The Northern Lights Festival**	Current musical trends, dance, theatre	www.nordlysfestivalen.no	25 Jan – 2 Feb. 2008
Lisbon, Portugal	**International Rostrum of Electro-acoustic Music**	Music, acoustic + electronic, theatre-sound, composers	www.misomusic.com *The emphasis of the website is on the professional community: 'e-news':* diary of events, *'circuit':* Portuguese new music circulation in Europe. *Links to European associations for composers*	17 – 20 Dec. 2007
Barcelona, Spain	**Sónar Festival**	Electronic music, sound installations, digital art	www.sonar.es *'music a la carte':* one song or soundpiece per artist/group on the website's own player. *'digital a la carte':* still image + text. *Festival has a myspace page.*	21 - June 2008
Canary Islands, Spain	**Canarias Jazz and Mas Heineken International Jazz Festival**	Jazz music	www.canariasjazz.com	26 June – 9 July 2007
Belfast, Northern Ireland, U.K.	**Sonorities Festival of Contemporary Music**	Music	sonorities.org.uk It appears the festival is not happening in 2008	20 – 25 April 2007
Glastonbury, U.K.	**Glastonbury** Festival of Contemporary Performing Arts	Music/ Alternative lifestyle	www.glastonburyfestivals.co.uk *Ethical Living + Entertainment info + links:* *from ipods to tents to car batteries.* *Glastonbury New Talent competition:* UK (or Irish-based) artists not signed to a major label can upload two tracks to: *www.Q4music.com* where some will be chosen for the next festival. Musicians can also choose which stage they prefer via the website.	27 – 29 June 2008

Glasgow, Scotland, U.K.	**Celtic Connections**	Celtic (folk) Music	www.celticconnections.com *Instrumental workshops at 3 levels: Come&try; Beginners; Improvers:* (if you have been playing your instrument for about a year) + *Players:* (more experienced / intermediate players). *'Outreach': Education Concerts.* Schools can book places at a set rate. *Links:* tradetunes.com (music/bands)/bbc celtic link/ music to listen to. *Link to an open blog for questions about the festival and suggestions for future festivals:* *www.footstompin.com*	16 Jan. – 3 Feb. 2008
			5 Theatre Festival Websites	
Liège + Brussel	**Festival de Liège**: contemporary interrogations	Theatre, dance	www.festivaldeliege.be More up to date in French. No possibility to switch language per page. Archive only accessible in French.	19 Jan – 17 Feb. 2008
Dublin, Ireland	**Dublin Theatre Festival**	Theatre music-theatre	www.dublintheatrefestival.com *Text + music clips:* For example a poem/concert by Laurie Anderson. *Up to date news related to theatre* in general is on the website. *Between-festival events announced for Friends of the festival. TV advert animations on the homepage make the website stand out.* *Links* to theatre scripts + resources	25 Sept – 12 Oct 2008
Terschelling The Netherlands	**Oerol**	Location theatre + dance, music, street performance	www.oerol.nl *Up-to-date website in Dutch* (in English it is not current nor complete), *between-festival events. News of previous festival productions that are currently touring. Link to Dutch provincial TV coverage* of the festival which shows segments of events.	13 – 22 June 2008
Harstad, Norway	**Festival of North Norway**	theatre, music, dance, street performance	www.festspillnn.no Material in English is not up-to-date	21 – 28 June 2008
Kristiansund, Norway	**Kristiansund Opera festival**	opera, theatre-music/ visual art	www.oik.no *Facebook group for photos*	7 – 14 Feb 2008

*RSS is a family of Web feed formats used to publish frequently updated content such as blog entries, news headlines or podcasts. An RSS document, which is called a "feed", "web feed", or "channel", contains either a summary of content from an associated web site or the full text.