

Final report from the residency

Date: 9 – 19 July 2024

Venue: Syros, Greece – Akropoditi DanceFest

Project: Živa Poppy Teatre

Participants: Tereza Georgievová, Lucie Bierhausová, Jasmína Georgievová

OBJECTIVE OF THE RESIDENCY

Our goal of the residency was to actively participate in the international festival Akropoditi DanceFest, where we could perform the parade performance Parade, the fiery performance Slavica and conduct a three-day stilt workshop. To see how such a festival works, to meet other artists and to be inspired in our next artistic creation. This plan succeeded beyond our expectations. The organization of the festival was precise, from the accommodation, which was right in the center of Syros, to the organization of performances and workshops. I really appreciate the choice of locations for performances and workshops, it helped a lot to enhance the overall atmosphere of our activity at the festival.

CONTENT AND PROGRESS OF THE RESIDENCY

During our residency, we completed a parade performance, which we offered to this festival with an open invitation for other artists and the public to join us. I think that this opening parade of the entire festival succeeded in enlivening the city center and the adjacent colonnade by the sea, and

we, other artists and the public, or random passers-by enjoyed it, which was our intention.

In the following days, we had a 3-day workshop where we taught the participants to walk on stilts. The first two workshops took place in the former factory, respectively in its adjacent outdoor spaces, which were very impressive indeed. The last day of the workshop took place on the football field, where it was possible to walk even for longer distances in an open space. We couldn't have had better workshop participants, they were very hardworking and passionate. We were also pleased with the diversity of people who participated in the workshop. There were dancers, acrobats who did very well and quickly, but also, in quotes, normal people who just wanted to try. Of all the participants I would like to mention a young girl Niko who was very enthusiastic and said that she would definitely like to continue on stilts and fire techniques in the

future, so we contacted her with a similar group as we have in Athens and we will hope that cooperation will succeed. Another experience was an older teacher who came to the workshop for just one day. Within an hour she was standing on crutches with our help and said that she was convinced that she would not dare, but that we had given her a life experience that she would never forget.

The workshop was very inspiring for us and we are very happy that we were able to meet people who enjoyed it and, on the contrary, to meet and talk with them outside the workshop about how life is in Syros or in Greece. Syros is a very cultural city where many artists come, it was a very pleasant experience for us.

THE SPECIFIC BENEFITS AND OUTCOMES OF THE RESIDENCY

As the goal of our residency was mainly to participate in the festival and conduct workshops, our greatest contribution was contact with Greek culture and the reaction of local people to our work. I described the parade and workshops above. Our last outing was a fiery performance of Slavica, which we played in the evening in the heart of Syros on the main square, which was full, according to the response, of enthusiastic spectators. We are very grateful to the organization Akropoditi DanceFest for the opportunity to play at such a prestigious venue.

FUTURE VISION

In the future, we would like to continue working with Akropoditi DanceFest and we are very grateful to everyone for the opportunity to be here for the residency. We were very charmed by Greece and we would like to send offers to other Greek festivals as well. Lucie Kuligová from the Czech Center in Athens helped us a lot in this, with whom we had the honor to meet in person for coffee in the port of Piraeus. She gave us advice on which festivals we should visit in Greece, so we will definitely use it and we thank her very much for it.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we rate our residential stay on Syros very positively. I can say without exaggeration that it was a life experience for us from which we will draw inspiration for a very long time. We would like to thank everyone who made this stay possible for us: Akropoditi DanceFest – Ariadni Psychogiopoulou, Nová síť – Tereza Lacmanová, Czech Centers – Anna Puklová, Czech Centers in Athens – Lucie Kuligová, Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic.

5. 9. 2024

Tereza Georgievová









