

# Final report from the residency

Date: 05. – 20. July / 16. – 20. December

Venue: Poland – Komuna Warszawa

Project: Power Couple / Based on a True Story

Participants: Vincent Klusák, Olga Ciężkowska, Adam Dragun

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## OBJECTIVE OF THE RESIDENCY

As part of the long-term collaboration between Olga Ciezowska and Adam Dragun, we planned to use the residency in Komuna Warszawa to refine the concept of our upcoming production Power Couple. It was to be a performance following two dramaturgical lines: firstly, the line of our personal romantic relationships with our partners and secondly, our own professional relationship in which we meet as a creative directing tandem. We invited the young artist and dramaturge Vincent Klusák to the collaboration – the aim was to get the opportunity for dramaturgical reflection during the preparation of the concept itself. The reflection of the creation – which can later be used in the final work is one of the strategies that interests us. The themes we wanted to deal with in the production were: the relationship between love and work, the phenomenon of creative couples, the possibilities of creation in the case of artistic partners from other countries.

## CONTENT AND PROGRESS OF THE RESIDENCY

In the first part of the residency, we dealt with the preparation of the Power Couple concept. Soon, however, the need to name as clearly as possible the strategies that interest us in our work and that we have organically used in our earlier projects (The Last Time My Parents Were in Komuna Warszawa, Deadline) became apparent. So we shifted our focus from the creation of the production to trying to define the dramaturgical strategies we are interested in. In doing so, we drew on theoretical sources – authors such as Florian Malzacher, Keti Chukhrov, Hito Steyerl or Maggie Nelson. At the same time, we analyzed performances by artists we were interested in – Turkowski and Nowacka, Jasna Zmak, Caroline Bianchi, etc. These are works in which the creator is often a social actor of the problem he or she is presenting, at the core of the dramaturgy is an attempt at inquiry, and the resulting performance is a reflection of the process of creation itself. Working with some type of real event is also a rule. Thus, the idea of the curatorial platform “Based on a True Story” emerged, focused on practical and theoretical research into this contemporary creative discourse.

## THE SPECIFIC BENEFITS AND OUTCOMES OF THE RESIDENCY

The main benefit is the cooperation we have established with the Komuna Warszawa theater, which expressed its willingness to continue working with us on the development of our idea "Based on a True Story". During the residency, Olga Ciężkowska and Adam Dragun decided to establish an artistic collective under the same name so that, as creators and curators, they could further develop the research initiated during the residency. We managed to create an artistic statement for our idea, set a substantive framework for further activities, and also start organizing a network of international creators and theater theorists whom, as curators, we would like to invite to joint activities around the idea of documentary-based theater. The first action is that we offered Komuna Warszawa cooperation on our original concept BASED ON A TRUE STORY FESTIVAL. Together we prepared a program of a potential event and it will probably be implemented next year.

## FUTURE VISION

We want to further develop our activities as a "Based on a True Story" collective. In addition to the festival at Komuna Warszawa, we also plan to cooperate on this idea with the ARCHA+ theater in Prague. Thanks to this artistic and curatorial platform, we want to organize discourse around theater drawing on documentary methods and connect creators researching these methods in different countries. We are working to expand the list of our contacts and discover new inspiring names. In the future, apart from festival-type activities, we also plan to continue working on our own performance that would also reflect these explorations.

## CONCLUSION

In our opinion, this residency was very satisfying –we finally managed to find the formula for the artistic and research cooperation that we have had together for several years. Thanks to this, we were able to profile our activities and systematize our inspirations, thoughts and discoveries. We discovered that our interests include curatorial activities and we took specific steps to combine our artistic and theoretical interests. Thanks to this, we entered into specific cooperation with cultural institutions and artists unknown to us before. It seems that the effect of this residency – the "Based on a True Story" platform – can provide us with many years of further development in the field of art.

An article about artis-in-residence concept by Adam Dragun: <https://mloki.sk/ako-prezit-na-rezidencii/>

23. 12. 2024  
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