

Project **ALPHA** - residency period 22/7 - 11/8 - CC Heidelberg

I have known the choreographic center in Heidelberg from a few years back, working with another company as a dancer. Already back then I dreamed about returning with my own project to a creative residency. There is something about the mix between being isolated from “big city life”, and still have a lot of space to live and create in that drew me to this place.

ALPHA is the first ‘full length’ piece I create, with an ensemble of dancers I know from another project: Amie-Blaire Chartier, Marie Hanna Klemm, Erin O’Reilly, Luigi Sardone, Iacopo Loliva. We began the research and creation process in December 2018, so the residency in Heidelberg was the last (and major) chapter in the creation / production process.

In general, the time we have spent in the choreographic center was magic. I appreciated the space and trust given to experiment, and the distance from the city that gave me peace of mind and the ability to focus. The facilities themselves also support diving into an intense creation, since the studios and the apartments are so close. Sometimes this closeness can make the process intense, since there is almost no separation between studio time, and time-off, but I felt that in this creation it worked well, since we became a tribe - a family.

We managed in the three weeks to develop a physical practice to support the choreographic work, and a state of mind to compliment the conceptual and theatrical nature of the work. It was a challenge, in a way, to find the darkness and tension which are the heart of this work, in such a serene atmosphere, but eventually we did. The dancers were incredibly committed to the process, to embarking on a process of physical and mental growth. I feel we have achieved a lot in this period, and the time spent in the studio was in a good flow.

I am very grateful for the opportunity, as well as the possibility to share it with an audience. Many times as artists we create a universe in the studio that shatters once it meets an outside eye, and even though I was nervous, I felt the showing to the public was important and empowering. I was pleasantly surprised by how well it was received, given that it is done in studio conditions, and that the piece is not so “easy to digest”. It was also great to see how much interest the CC created around it.

I am very happy about this rare opportunity given to me and my team to create in a safe, supportive environment. It is rare to find. I hope to remain in touch with the choreographic center and return with my future work for more explorations. I am happy to see the space and the theater are full of life.

Best regards
Yotam Peled