

Residency report for the project HÉLIO

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CC-Heidelberg
January 10th to 14th and 24th to 28th, 2022



My new creation HÉLIO is an ode to the life of Hélio Martins de Souza, Brazilian ballroom dancer and my maternal grandfather.

Working with the themes of authenticity, originality and appropriation, I have set me up for the challenge to work with the 50 year old music piece *Drumming*, by American composer Steve Reich. As if in an inner expedition, I aim to move through a personal archive of folk, social and popular dances and I dialogue with my own experience as a dancer in Europe for the past 15 years.

Over the course of two weeks, my team and I had the great pleasure to be supported by the residency program of CC-Heidelberg.

HÉLIO has started its creation in November 2021 with a premiere date on February 4th 2022 at A22 Theatre in Gaia, Portugal.

January 10th to 14th, 2022

During the first week of the residency I was alone in the studio, taking the time to dive deeper into the movement materials of this work. I managed to go through my archive of previous improvisations from early on in this creation, and select carefully which vocabulary I would want to use and then rewrite them.

Apart from the challenge of not having an outside eye support, I managed to both focus on a direction that felt right for the work and to get rid of things that did not make sense anymore.



January 24th to 28th, 2022

With the arrival of my team (choreographic assistant, light designer, dramaturg and a short visit of the costume designer), we could finally focus on the overall curve of this work. The cozy space and welcoming atmosphere made it possible for us to investigate, yet again, on what was needed to merge movement and text. The availability of long and flexible

hours also contributed to a schedule that was smoother, leaving us space to get inspired by the city and bring that inspiration back to the studio.

We finished our residency with an informal showing for around 25 people which ended up being the highlight of our time there. It gave us a boost of confidence before heading to Portugal for our premiere, specially after being able to talk to an audience and get a good variety of impressions.

