

Report

3 wöchige Residenz am Choreografischen Zentrum Heidelberg mit Anand Dhanakoti (Hamburg/ Bangalore) und Yael Rëunif (Paris/ Martinique)

Arbeitstitel: *Embers or where do we go from here*

Ich schreibe den Bericht auf English, da unsere Arbeitssprache Englisch ist.

I split the residency in two parts. In the first week only Anand and me worked together on some new ideas for EMBERS. In September we premiered in Mannheim a short piece and we will premiere the full evening Piece *EMBERS/ today is yesterday and tomorrow in different place*. We

We worked with writing and using these texts in impro. Finding different approaches and references in literature, nature, films/documentaries and art books.

Then we played with these ideas physically in the studio, building material and trying out specific tasks through improvisation. Being either in a more dystopian or utopian setting. For example, we developed little solos inspired by human flaws, which are in our opinion a reasons why things are as they are now (e.g. greed, competition, violence, aggression, cold-bloodedness, overproduction etc.). These will be fed into a scene where we scan a shattered dead planet for signs of life and only encounter memories.

Yaël joined us after the first week and we shared our imaginaries and texts and together we embarked on a journey of discovering what this trio could be and what a future format could be. Meaning stage piece or installative, durational etc..... Through writing re-reading and specific exercises, invented by us or other practitioners we started building imaginary worlds and solo/dup and trio materials. Things that came up were: animals/ hybrid creature; Rituals; statues, snakes, spirituality, adaption, etc. And questions such as: how would we have to evolve/what would be a future body? How would things have to change to make this planet a better place?

We had a strong focus on voice work and were spending a big amount of time synchronizing with our voices and becoming more comfortable in singing as well as letting bodies speak through sound and movement. I invited Claudia Bless-Ehrenpreis who works with music through movement. She gave us a morning workshop. Yaël is also a Singer and shared with us her vocal practice and warm-ups. From there we found our ritual of joining the voices and warming up the space, which we shared in the showing. We improvised a lot with each other and for each other and also kept searching and discovering new materials until the last day, usually doing a 20-30 min Improvisation at the end of each day. In the second week we started to work on a loose structure infusing some of the clearer materials as options and having three corner stones: The voice ritual at the beginning, the octopus trio middle or just before the end and the statue/vining ritual on the platform as the finishing ritual. We were working physically a lot with transformation and searching for something new or something that we find interesting because it speaks to us and then sticking with that proposition and developing it or listening to the movement and following where it goes. We realized that trust is very important and we were also busy with building that and finding it in ourselves. If there is no trust we try to control and then we block possibilities and directions. We become rigid rather than adaptable. Throuh the 30 min improvisations each we started to understand what we find exciting, new constellations and images.

If we would continue working, we would define scenes more and more, work on the dramaturgy of the piece. We would keep some improvisation but with very clear tasks. Our plan is to now find houses/theatres/museum etc. that would like to support our creation and apply in our different cities/ countries for funding to make a co-creation where we would also like to involve live musicians. Our aim would be to start next year and premiere in either end of '24 or in 2025.