

REPORT RESIDENCY CC-HEIDELBERG - Fran Diaz

Our residency in Heidelberg marked the last two weeks of an intense two-month creation period leading up to our Braunschweig premiere the following week. The proximity of the premiere and the exhausting rehearsal period prior to our arrival made this phase the most stressful, but also the most rewarding of our creative journey.

During these two weeks, our focus was on refining *Scheme*. The initial research phase was complete, and we immersed ourselves in putting the finishing touches on our work. This period was crucial as most of the movement material had already been created and the themes and conceptual framework of the piece was mostly developed, so we used the rehearsal time during the residency to focus on adding the finishing touches: refining the movement material, going over the dramaturgical journey of the piece and making sure it aligned with our researched themes, and also for the dancers, finding the right physicality and stamina as it turned out to be a very physically demanding piece.

Conceptually, *Scheme* explores the dynamics that the members of the team experienced individually within institutional structures. The piece reflects on the difficulties and challenges we faced in attempting to effect structural change within institutions.

Despite dealing with topics that were heavy and loaded for us, and even though we felt tired after having a long creation process behind us, the environment we found ourselves in was incredibly supportive. It facilitated an open and relaxed atmosphere for us to focus on the end of our journey, and we felt extremely grateful to spend some time in the city of Heidelberg, a beautiful but also vibrant backdrop for those two weeks.

From our free time in Heidelberg, we will treasure the performance we attended at the Heidelberg Dance Theater, for which Iván Perez kindly provided us with tickets, and the festival of new Anatolian music we attended at the Karlstorbanhof, both inspiring and necessary breaks in our work process.

An important factor that facilitated our workflow was also the housing arrangement that allowed us to live and work in the same space within the complex of the Unterwegs Theater. The great convenience of being in close proximity to our workspace eliminated a considerable amount of logistical stress and played a crucial role in making this intense period much more manageable. The entire team was very grateful for this situation.

Our residency culminated in an end-of-residency showing, where we presented most parts of the piece, except for those reliant on set design elements already in Braunschweig for our upcoming premiere. Despite a small audience, their enthusiasm and feedback boosted our confidence for the imminent premieres. Our interactions with Jai Gonsales and the Unterwegs Theater team were invaluable, leaving us grateful for their warm reception and encouraging words.

In conclusion, our residency in Heidelberg's Choreographic Center left us feeling accomplished. The relaxed environment allowed us to tackle complex themes while navigating the pressures of the upcoming premiere. The residency laid a solid foundation for our shows in Braunschweig, allowing us to present "*Scheme*" in its most polished form.