

Residency Report

“We hope this helps”

Concept: María Auxiliadora Gálvez, Jone San Martín & Ildikó Tóth

Choreography & Performance: Vasiliki Bara, Jone San Martín & Ildikó Tóth

Stage Design: María Auxiliadora Gálvez

Lighting Design: Tanja Rühl

Sound: Nadine Moser/Resom

From February 19th to March 10th 2024, Vasiliki Bara and I began a three-week residency at the Choreographisches Centrum Heidelberg. Jone San Martín joined us for the final week. Our main goal was to work on our upcoming dance production, "We hope this helps", scheduled to premiere on June 7th 2024, at LOFFT - DAS THEATER in Leipzig. The residency at CC Heidelberg was a crucial opportunity to focus on refining our artistic vision and choreographic elements. Throughout the residency, we aimed to explore ideas, experiment and lay the groundwork for our performance.



"We hope this helps" revolves around the essence of human experience and understanding, particularly in the context of the rising influence of artificial intelligence. Central to the piece are the fundamental dimensions of human existence: intuition, empathy and interaction. Through collaborative efforts across diverse disciplines including dance, music, architecture, sound and lighting design, we aim to create a dynamic and immersive communal space through improvisation. The performance unfolds in the moment of encounter between performers, stage and audience, where

shared emotional, cognitive, sensory and physical experiences shape the production. At its core, "We hope this helps" explores humans' unique ability to sense, feel and react intuitively to the present moment. Rather than imposing interpretations, we invite audiences to engage with their own perceptions and reflections.

Our approach to dance practice during the residency involved a dynamic blend of set movements and improvisation techniques. Central to our work was the exploration of choreography, which we developed by combining movement sequences from all three

dancers. To refine the choreography, we experimented with timing, directions and flow while retaining an element of unpredictability. Our attention to detail extended to various aspects of movement, including its initiation, dynamics, qualities and intention.

In our exploration of choreography, we sought for a profound understanding of movement, enabling us to engage freely in improvisational tasks. This process included adapting choreographic elements to different parts of the body, such as the face and hands. Additionally, we experimented with space, direction, timing and music to create diverse choreographic landscapes. Inspired by Gurdjieff's "sacred dances", we incorporated the repetition of firm, clear arm movements to induce a state of trance, before delving into playful interactions with direction, order and dynamic. Throughout our improvisations, we remained attuned to our intuition, perception and presence in the moment, fostering connections with each other and the performance space, thereby creating a fluid space between structured choreography and spontaneous expression.

Furthermore, we engaged in a variety of improvisational tasks that expanded beyond the choreographed phrases. We explored concepts such as inward and outward movement, experimented with dynamic slicing motions and played with bounces and marionette-like qualities. Our practice also extended to vocalizations, where we tried out different voices and texts, immersing ourselves in the expressive possibilities of sound and words.

Additionally, we explored the interaction with mirror foils hanging from the ceiling, observing how our reflections and the interplay of light transformed the space. These reflective surfaces became dynamic storytellers, influencing our movements as well as our interactions and offering new dimensions to our dance.

As our residency drew to a close, we found ourselves consolidating our work for the upcoming showing on March 9th. This involved carefully selecting and refining the material to be presented while also making decisions about what aspects to retain and what to let go. The showing itself provided us with invaluable feedback, offering perspectives and insights that further enriched our creative process.

Reflecting on our time at the Choreographisches Centrum Heidelberg, we realized the immense value of this dedicated period. It provided us with the space and time to



collaborate in a focused, safe and supportive environment, free from the pressures of production. During our residency, we engaged in meaningful discussions that deepened our understanding of our artistic aims, collaborative dynamics and individual perspectives on dance and aesthetics. These exchanges fostered a sense of clarity and alignment, empowering us to continue our creative journey.

Eine Produktion von Ildikó Tóth & Jone San Martín in Kooperation mit LOFFT – DAS THEATER Leipzig, Unterwegstheater/CC Heidelberg und 4fT-Tanzplattform Leipzig e.V.

Gefördert von der Stadt Leipzig – Kulturamt und der Kulturstiftung des Freistaates Sachsen. Diese Maßnahme wird mitfinanziert durch Steuermittel auf der Grundlage des vom Sächsischen Landtag beschlossenen Haushaltes. Unterstützt durch das NATIONALE PERFORMANCE NETZ Koproduktionsförderung Tanz, gefördert von der Beauftragten der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien.

