

REPORT "DON'T YOU DARE" RESEARCH AT TANZ+

During our Tanz+ research residency we set the base for our future dance/theatre production titled "DON'T YOU DARE". The piece will explore the topic of superstitions belonging to different cultures - and will search for their unifying potential.

Therefore, to begin our group research, we shared all superstitious beliefs we came across, we looked for new superstitions belonging to different cultures, and for the often not so logical explanations of their origins.

In the meantime, our practical research in the studio started. There, we applied different choreographic tools, looking for a way to translate those surreal, mystical scenarios into dance theatre.

We found three different approaches that functioned very well and supported our above-mentioned aim.

- 1) Theatrical approach: using the voice and along with it the movement, to speak about the individual experiences of the dancers and their relation to superstitions. After letting them improvising on the task, we fixed the text by defining its structure and dramaturgy, as well as the connection between the movement and the words (rhythm- and meaning-wise).
- 2) Movement-based approach: We simply created movement material either connecting each movement to a superstition-based action, or just by giving a physical task. And later connecting that material with a specific intention/emotion derived from the improvisation-based approach mentioned below.
- 3) Improvisation-based approach: This consisted of a series of improvisations developed on superstition-based images and emotions/intentions. I.e.: Playing with the feeling of anxiety given by insecurity, with the need to control while not being able to, and later on with the lightness and the subtle humour coming from the surreal aspects of those beliefs in the moment they are openly shared with an audience.

In the end, we combined a series of scenes together in order to present a 20 min extract of our research. We were very pleased to discover how much form (movement) and content were in harmony. We enjoyed the variety of emotions generated by the topic. Furthermore, we found the unifying element that allowed us to know more about other cultures and customs and to share something about them. We learned about the generational aspect of superstitions coming from the need and wish to stay connected to our roots, and the very different ways in which people relate to superstitions more or less rationally in their everyday life.