

ImPulsTanz report summer 2017

My name is Oihana Azpillaga, I am a 20 year old Social Science student at the VUB in Brussels. I will start my last Bachelor year in September 2017.

I am very interested in and passionate about dance and performance since my early childhood and started dancing at an early age. I have participated at several dance and performance projects : **Bêt Noir** by Wim Vandekeybus (2006), **Naar Medea** by Inne Goris (2008), **Huis** (2012) and **Tornar** (2015) by Seppe Baeyens. In my last Bachelor year at the VUB in Brussels, I will fulfill an internship at **Fabuleus**, a production house for dance and theatre with the focus on the development of young artistic talent, followed by a long internship for the **Dag van de dans** (November 2017-April 2018) (Day for the dance in Flanders and the Brussels Capital Region).

Given my interest and passion for art in general and dance in particular, I was very happy to be selected to do an internship at the ImPulsTanz Festival in Vienna during the summer of 2017, an experience that would enrich my knowledge of dance and the administration and organisation of dance, and prepare me for the internships in my 3rd Bachelor year.

The internship in the context of the ImpulsTanz Festival took place in the frame of the SuSy activity, a Support System activity of the EU-project Life Long Burning, hosted and organized by danceWEB. My internship started on the 13th of July 2017 and lasted till the 13th of August 2017.

The opportunity to have the experience to work within a highly professional team of people, to be in the middle of the heart of the organisation and witness all activities and the aspects that belong to them on the administrative, logistic, financial, production and communication level was very interesting and gave me a lot of insights into the business of art, dance, and the production and administration issues related to art and festivals.

My mentor Magdalena Stolhofer was especially professional, I learned a lot from her, being in the same office with her and her colleagues and observing and participating at several events and situations. She taught me how to deal with difficult moments and tasks and how to never to give up in front of obstacles.

I got involved with different departments of the festival, executing diverse tasks. This was very exciting, as I got to know a lot of new people with different functions. My tasks were mostly related to activities organized by danceWEB, such as the [8:tension] Young Choreographers' Series, the Prix Jardin d'Europe, teachback and the danceWEB Scholarship Programme.

I helped distributing the tickets for the danceWebbers the night of the performance(s), and contributed to the organisation of the Prix Jardin d'Europe evening, amongst others by preparing the goody bags for the DJ's who performed in the Lounge.

I was also responsible for the welcome bags for all the artists, teachers and people who were invited by the festival. They all got the brochures from the

festival (performances, parties, more information), a bike- and metro plan, a water bottle, a lollypop, beans, a wristband to get easy access to the Lounge and much more. I also got into contact with the artists, including the [8:tension] Young Choreographers', by preparing and bringing a fruit basket to all of them on the day of their first performance. It was an opportunity to meet some of them personally and to provide a heart-warming welcome feeling, making their stay as pleasant and support them by wishing them good luck with their performance.

I also had the responsibility to assist Jan Fabre and his team with the production of the première of their new creation in Vienna. To find solutions and answers to all their needs and questions was a real challenge. Jan Fabre had many performances and projects going on in the context of the festival, and most of them entailed a lot of production work. I got very challenged and triggered to leave my comfort zone, and also learned to protect my limits/boundaries and find the right balance between being very kind and helpful and solution-driven, without losing myself in the chaos of requests or the trap of being taken advantage of.

Experiencing such an event at such a young age is very special and tremendously interesting. The ImPulsTanz crew functions as one big family, a group of inspiring professionals and talented people. Everyone is super kind, helpful, amazing and engages one hundred percent to make each moment a memorable success. This attitude made me achieve new goals and push my own limits. I learned more in that one month than I did in the 6 months before that month.

A festival that lasts for 6 weeks, feels like running a marathon. It was a non-stop engagement without a single doubt, with a huge enthusiasm and lots of positive vibes. Even if after that period I needed some time to re-centre my energy and rest, the experience will stay with me for the rest of my life, the return was huge, I got so much in return.