

Life Long Burning / SUSY (Support System)

Uferstudios Berlin,
Oktober 2019 – January 2020

As part of the Life Long Burning Project I had the opportunity to engage in the work of one of Berlins most important networking hubs and production spaces for independent artists and dancers. Being involved in a variety of cultural projects and events over the last 9 years I have gathered a lot of experience in organizing theatre and film productions. In the last 2 years, I have moved in my career to explore much more being on stage and I ended up discovering dance. Previously I had been working as a visual artist and light designer for theatre as well as project manager and production assistant for socio-cultural projects, especially in the field of community arts. Entering the Berlin dance scene has been a very fast and unexpected turn of events, and I had to realize that not only Choreography is quite different than Theatre directing, but also connections and networks are completely different as well as some funding and support schemes. The time I spent at Uferstudios allowed me to get an insight not only in production and administration workflows related to dance performances, festivals and international projects, but also into the infrastructure of a community space shared by multiple organisations, as well as make new contacts with fellow dancers and other professionals on a local, regional and international level. Simultaneously I had the chance to bring some of my previous skills in and further develop my engagement in the sociopolitical and cultural field.

During the daily activities at Uferstudios I managed to gain experience in Program development, assist different groups with their production, work closely to the managing director and get to know the processes related to budgeting, controlling and accounting, get involved in PR and marketing strategies, assist with promotional materials and web communication, as well as coordinate some technical run through's for shows and help with small maintenance jobs. The main aspect of the internship was the Tour Through Tanztage & Exchange Practices in which I could join the Curator and Director in the conception and organization of the modul, and take care of the communication with the local and international artists as well as the Artists from Tanztage. This allowed me to wider expand my network of connections through which hopefully fruitful collaborations will be possible in the future. Being a festival curator myself with huge interest in event design, it has been a great opportunity to join Inge Koks and have close exchange of thoughts and critical perspectives on the needs and responsibilities of dance projects in Europe at the moment. Also being able to take part in all the discussions with the curator of Tanztage and other artists I regained trust in the strength and capacity of transformation of the independent art scene in Berlin and Europe.

With this new impulses and deepened knowledge I set out to create own projects in the field of dance, to dare follow my own choreography ideas, knowing that I have the skills to follow through and manage performances from beginning until end. Especially useful I found in this sense also the possibility to look into reporting and finalizing projects funded by the Berliner Senat and EU Programs. It gave me confidence to expand the way I look at funding for projects and what I need to provide in order to make successful applications.

I hope I managed to bring some of my skills successfully in aiding the production team of Uferstudios, fulfilling all the requirements set out within the contract, and as such create a balanced exchange covering each other's needs. To have this opportunity in Berlin is rare, being able to work fully paid as a production manager in a set frame is not common in the independent art scene. With little funding of course the focus mainly goes to the involved artists, so very often the curatorial, administrative and production work is left out. This experience made me realize I have to plan much more administrative hours into my project budgets and make sure my times focused on production need to be accounted for also.

Overall the experience at Uferstudios was a great success, I feel I have managed to become part of the team very quickly and to understand how I can assist their work and fill in the gaps. I developed my self-confidence and skills tremendously and gained new contacts, which prove already to be very useful in my further artistic work. I wish this opportunity could have had a longer timeframe or a follow up opportunity, as there is neither other chance like this nor any other institution in Berlin through which I could further benefit of a paid position.

Nevertheless I am grateful for temporarily being part of a great team and getting to know the platform and collaboration network of Life Long Burning.