

ImPulsTanz report summer 2019

My name is Oihana Azpillaga Camio and I live in Brussels. In the summer of 2019 I did an internship at the ImPulsTanz Festival in Vienna. This internship 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 the 3rd of July 2019 and came to an end on the 14th of August 2019.

During my internship I was involved in the cultural administration for danceWEB with a focus on the activities for the danceWEB Scholarship Programme 2019, Atlas, and the 8:tension residencies. Given my previous work experiences at ImPulsTanz, the range of tasks I had to deal with this time was more extended and challenging.

I repeated the job of bringing the fruit baskets to all the artists who performed at the ImPulsTanz Festival, but this year I had a more personal connection with the artists as I was asked to be the contact person for part of the artists and projects. This included arranging their hotel, getting them in touch with the technical department, making their welcome bags, handing out the T-shirts, communicating the practical transport information such as the pick-up from and to the airport and the choice of having a public transport ticket or a bike, arranging the tax documents for the company members that travelled to Vienna, etc.

I also assisted the ticket department at handing out the tickets at the specific venues for the performances. This year I also had to book the performance tickets for the companies I was responsible for. The increase of responsibilities enabled me to grow and explore my capacities, opportunities and limits. My ImPulsTanz colleagues were very helpful and amazing, as ever. They guided me through every step, while at the same time allowing me the time to find my own way to fix problems.

One experience in particular got me out of my comfort zone - in a good way, however. The performance of one of the 8:tension choreographers included the use of subtitles, but the artist - performing solo in the piece - did not bring along a technician, dramaturg or production assistant who could help him with the projection of his subtitles. Following up on the subtitles during a show might not be the most difficult job, but it requires at least some practice and the knowledge of the languages involved. However, the language used on stage was French and the festival couldn't find anybody who spoke both French and English. The best solution that was found, was for me to do the job, as I was the only one around mastering both languages. I had never done subtitles before but wanted to give it a try. At first, I was a bit horrified, as the actor spoke really fast with a speedy rhythm and there was not a lot of time to practice. Luckily the choreographer had trust in me. During the show the actor spoke even faster than during the rehearsal, which obliged me to make the choice to skip some of the translations to make the subtitles go more or less according to the flow of information. I was happy that I had the stamina and nerve to hold on till the end of the show. It was an experience that reinforced my trust and confidence that doing your best and showing courage can lead to good results.

The daily life and confrontation with all these young and talented dancers from the DanceWEB and Atlas group, made me realize that being a dancer isn't always easy. The opportunities to find work or show your work as a beginning dancer or actor to the world are rare.

I used my danceWEB/ImpulsTanz-experience of working in the field of cultural administration to start a platform for young makers in the arts in Belgium with two other young women. In September 2019 we organized **Platform In de Maak**, a festival that focusses on the needs of young makers in the scenic arts today. A place for debate, creation and presentation of finished work, work in progress, try-outs or just sharing some thoughts. The encounter with multiple administrative, financial, logistic and communication issues was extremely challenging. My experiences at the ImpulsTanz Festival proved to be very useful.

I also engaged in another project called 'Day of the Dance' in Flanders and Brussels, an initiative that celebrates dance by organizing one day full of dance across Flanders and Brussels. I used all my communication and practical skills to help put dance in the spotlight and give everybody the opportunity to get to know and participate in all the different layers and levels dance can offer.

I am happy and proud to say that my internship at danceWEB/ImpulsTanz gave me tools and experience I now use in my beginning professional career.

Oihana Azpillaga Camio
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