

Final Erasmus evaluation report.....Berlin, 10th November 2019
of the residency / internship in Lake Studios.....by Franziska Doffin

I have stayed at Lake Studios Berlin as an artist resident and intern from the 1st September 2019 to the 31st October 2019. During the internship and residency in Lake Studios i have gained many precious experiences. First of all it is a space, where the personal and professional life meet each other closely and come into friction.

I could flourish by taking the role of an energy generator, proactively involving with the social life as well as the communal professional activities. I was as well able to involve with projects of others as well as involving my colleagues into my project. A lot of trust and generosity evolved in me and i received this feeling from others. Some true friendships have built up. And in me evolved more and more love, even when i don't love. Openness and attentiveness are keys for collegueal and collaborative work in the profession of dance.

I could gain a lot of confidence personally and professionally. I have offered to my friend the stage designer Elena Tilli, to assist choreographically in her project, which has turned to a fruitful collaboration, and she has included me in an application for the next work.

I have teached several morning trainings and received a lot of excited and supportive feedback, once i even experienced an adrenaline flash similar to the state after having performed. I have discovered my joy to teach, which has opened many professional possibilities. The morning training as well, has been an opportunity to meet other dancers and build connections.

While accomplishing tasks around the studios, i have understood, that i am mentally ready to work in the profession i am qualified for. The caring for the space has anchored me however.

Reheasal process: In the first week of this residency i have been lucky to attend three women solos, that have artistically inspired my own work. Especially Ira Demina's piece „Act II.“ became a reference. It was possible to include regularly colleagues in my rehearsals. The mentor Marcela Giesche has supported the work process throughout. The support was sometimes rather specific sometimes rather general; both has helped a lot in the process. The process of making a solo piece was challenging. The starting point were certain movement materials and an idea of space. The rehearsal process reflects in the dramaturgy of the piece. The ideas are present, but have transformed. Certain materials have continously remained, most of them have deformed completely. In the rehearsal period many materials were created, worked through, fishing for the meaning, making knots in the texture.

It was a new experience to make so many things in order to keep only few. The development of the dramaturgy, the physical and theatrical performance, the sound and light design, and the costume and props became distinct. The work has been as well methodical as well instinctive.

I have shown my work in progress regularly to my mentor marcela Giesche and other colleagues; on the 25th October 2019, i was given the opportunity to present the piece in the event of „Unfinished Fridays“ which takes place monthly in Lake Studios. The audience stays after the show in order to discuss and feedback the works, they have seen. The feedback has been very supportive and productive for future work on my solo piece.

I have a clear idea how to develop the piece further. At the moment i am looking for further opportunities to perform this piece.

