

DanceLab,

dance as a journey to the land of the imagination

Interview with DanceLab, published in news portal www.wiadomosci24.pl on Feb 2nd 2013.

A new company at the Polish dance scene was created since November 2012. Its founders are Gosia Mielech and Zofia Jakubiec - dancers associated for many years with the Polish Dance Theatre.

Andrzej Hajdasz: I remember you from the performances of the Polish Dance Theatre. Was it your stage debut?

Gosia Mielech: Both me and Zofia Jakubiec had our debut on stage, being in a ballet school. I suppose that our first professional stage was one in Zamek Culture Centre. Next we have been attending for 7 years to the Grand Theatre, dancing in most of classical ballets such as: "Swan Lake", "Don Quixote", "The Count of Monte Cristo." Simultaneously, we were also participants of ballet competitions and other events which allowed us to feel comfortable on stage.



When did you start your journey with contemporary dance?

- At Ballet School we were lucky enough to encounter Karina Adamczak-Kasprzak who is amazing contemporary dance teacher. She instilled love and passion for this dance in us. We were using all occasion to broaden our practical and theoretical knowledge in the field of contemporary dance in the world. At the end of our education at school we met Paweł Matyasik and improvisation technique. It was a milestone in our artistic development and perception of dance. We stopped to look at this kind of art only through the perspective of technical excellence, we also found opportunities to work with our imagination. In a way, we entered the new world, a world of endless explorations and challenges. From that point we started to look more careful and consciously at the reality around us, finding at the same time our own style and the way that we chose in our career.



Both of you possess a solid ballet base. Weren't you tempted to continue your dancing career with the classical dance?

- Of course, we was a moment in our life when we were being fascinated by the ballet technique, by all its fairy-tale character, beauty and ethereal charm of dancers. It was then very attractive and an unknown world. As the years go passing by we acquired experience, we began to look for completely different values and

quality of movement in dance.

DanceLab is an art partnership. Do you have a precise plan for the future? What is the purpose of this project?

- DanceLab has been created by overwhelming fascination with movement. It is a laboratory in which physicality, emotion, dynamics and expression of the body are subjects to continuous experimentation. Our goal is to cross the classical definition of contemporary dance, searching and going into the limitless possibilities of the human body and the power of imagination. We want to enter the dialogue with the audience rather than educate them, to invite people to join the journey into the land of ideas and images being often abstract, but strongly affecting the emotions and fantasies of the audience.



DanceLab is a team that will carry out a variety of art projects, inviting choreographers both from Poland and abroad. At this time, we are working intensively on the premiere composed of two performances. Rehearsals are held in Poznan and Oslo.

You performed many times together as dancers. I remember "Unfulfillment" presented within Atelier of Polish Dance Theatre. What made you decide to go ahead and create a new own artistic project from the beginning?

- It's worth saying what made us decide to found a DanceLab. For 9 years we have been attended to the same class at the Ballet School, then after graduation we were working for another 5 years in the Polish Dance Theatre. We have been knowing each other for 15 years, our educational and professional path, despite the obvious consistency proceeded differently. Over the years we spent time together in the same room ballet, our both private and stage individual experience shaped us a two different artistic personalities. It is interesting that despite all these years spending

together we were having rare opportunity to confront our ideas and preferences and using them together in practice. Each of us had her inspirations, which were looked after and developed, and then it became clear that intuitively we were following the same direction. DanceLab is composed out of our collective fascinations and tastes while any differences in our personalities and temperaments can only enrich it.

What is your main source of inspiration? Where do you get your ideas for performances from?

- Our main source of inspiration is the body and mind with limitless possibilities. We are fascinated by physical reflection of ideas and how to determine the movement with a fantasy. Paweł Matyasik is the one who instilled in us a total fascination with improvisation. To some extent he became our mentor. We are still remembering with great fondness our work on "Unfulfillment" in which we had the opportunity to enter the dialogue with each other, contributing to a very personal level. Looking back, we can say that the work with Paweł became the foundation of our current activities.

Which choreographers and dance groups influenced you the most and showed you the new way?

- Equally important event, we can call it a milestone in our career, became a joint trip to Israel for GaGa workshop. We had the opportunity to learn directly at the source of one of the most important movement inspiration for us. From the first contact with the Israeli contemporary dance, we became fascinated by its truthiness, temperamental and natural, animalistic energy and unbridled movement energy, supported by an outstanding technique of the dancers.



Zofia, last year you graduated clothes design at the Faculty of Architecture and Scenography of Fine Arts University (under the supervision of dr Anna Regimowicz-Korytowska). You have already prepared projects of costumes for performances, which you were dancing in. Will DanceLab allow you to spread your wings in this respect, or would you rather focus on dance and choreography?



- The visual side of DanceLab is very important for us. Costume, lighting and the whole visual aspects are very important elements that complement the whole performance. Thank to the fact that we have a similar sensitivity and aesthetic sense, not only in terms of movement, our costumes are made within the consistent cooperation. I'm sure that DanceLab will allow us to spread our wings in various fields of art. Dancing is a continuous process of self improvement.

Your motto is: " Touches and outrages, Disturbs and delights, Fascinates". How do you want to put it into practice?

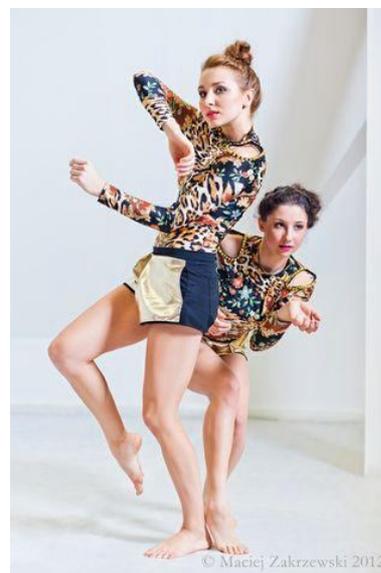
- Without giving up on the technical aspects and the continuous improvement of our skills in dance, we are balancing on the border between beauty and ugliness. At the same time we don't want to shock, but move, provoke the viewer, forcing him/her to think. We are interested in individual approach to our performances.

Tell me, how you divided roles in DanceLab ? Will one of you become responsible for choreography, or you are rather working together on improvement the ideas?

- The first DanceLab evening will consists of two performances. At the moment we are working on the first one, which is both created and performed by us. Soon we will begin rehearsals for the second part of the evening. The choreography will be prepared by another artist and we will focus on the best possible performance. DanceLab is based on the harmonious cooperation of all its members. In every business you need to define a fine structure, that's why me, Zofia Jakubiec and Marcin Majchrzak (manager) have clearly defined roles. DanceLab is operating because of a group with creative people, who supports our work with passion and positive energy. We are grateful to all our friends who are engaged in helping the organization of the premiere, as well as in the on-going work of DanceLab. In particular, we would like to thank the Ray Wilson Foundation, Jacek Lisewski from Sollus Media and Culture Center "Na Skarpie".

I've already seen a demo of your recorded shows. When are you planing to show your performance in public?

- DanceLab premiere will be held in early June 2013 in Poznan. In order to follow the details, we invite you to our page: www.dancelab.eu and Facebook.



Thank you for your time. I am looking forward to your performances. All interested are encouraged to watch DanceLab promotional material.

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