



# CUBER'S ZINE

*Special Edition*



LET WORDS PAINT A PICTURE

Welcome to a special edition of CUBE Insights, where the vibrant pulse of cultural and creative activities converges with the rich narratives of our participants. In this dedicated issue, we immerse ourselves in the profound world of the European Co-Funded Creative Europe Project entitled “Theatre In Palm”, with reference number 101059133, exploring the transformative power of the Hybrid Residency and unveiling the captivating experiences of those at the heart of this artistic journey.

Within these pages, you'll find a mosaic of voices, each echoing the unique perspectives and diverse tales woven through the tapestry of cultural and creative engagement. Our focus is singular yet expansive - to shine a spotlight on the invaluable opinions and experiences of CUBE's participants who have embarked on a remarkable odyssey through the European Project Theatre In Palm.

As we delve into the significance of the Hybrid Residency, we uncover not just a method of artistic creation but a crucible where ideas, cultures, and creativity collide and harmonize. It's a space where innovation thrives, and the boundaries between disciplines blur, giving rise to a new dimension of expression.

Through the lens of our participants, we invite you to witness the profound impact of this unique artistic endeavor. The stories shared within these pages are more than mere narratives; they are testaments to the power of collaboration, the celebration of diversity, and the exploration of the human experience.

This edition of CUBE Insights is not just a magazine; it's a passport to the realms of imagination and discovery. Join us as we unravel the importance of the Hybrid Residency and delve into the kaleidoscope of experiences that define the European Project Theatre In Palm.

Here's to the voices that resonate, the stories that unfold, and the transformative power of cultural and creative exploration. Welcome to a journey where art meets life, and opinions paint the canvas of shared experiences.





When I heard the good news that I am going to participate in the hybrid residency I immediately thought that it was going to be an experience to remember, and indeed after a week of the final performance I still catch myself to recall all the great memories and people I met during these two weeks. Technically it was a two weeks program but in reality it really felt like it was a wonderful month full of new information and artistic adventures. The first week in Thessaloniki was the welcoming and the base in which we would be free to create and form our ideas. Personally I had a really great time there as we went out to explore the areas and find materials that we were going to use in our performance. We end up to a more conceptual form of art which I truly like.

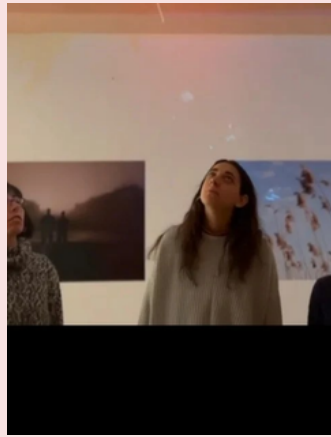
The following week I went to Finland and in particular to Turku. As I stepped into the airport I loved the vibe of the country. Happy and kind people, clean environment and Moomins everywhere! (Moomins is a Finnish animation and a series of comic books. I love it, I used to watch it when I was little so you can imagine my joy.)

The AMK university of Turku is so wonderful and full of facilities that I wished to have been a student there. Our two lovely mentors were so welcoming and really made us feel like home. Moreover, I adored the participants from Sweden with whom we cocreated the final performance. We exchanged ideas on how we see Antigone and the environment as a given theme and soon we realised that we had been working on the same artistic path which was the physical theatre. We chose the movements and the transitions and rehearsed many times in order to take it to its final form. The result was an amazing performance with materials of teamwork.

We also had time to visit the castle, the art museum, Helsinki and go for a sauna. That was a unique moment of this journey as most of us did it for the first time, so the dive after the sauna in the cold waters of the Baltic sea was a lifetime experience. I feel so grateful and lucky and I will carry these moments as a luggage of wonderful memories, meetings and knowledge. I am looking forward to the next residency.

**ARGYRIS MARINIS**





### **A walk through...**

Hybrid Residency 2023 gave me an opportunity to walk through paths I could never tried. Performance in Zoom! Is it live cinema or is it digital theatre? What is digital theatre? And what about the audience, where is it in this kind of theatre? Can water relate to the ancient play of Sophocles, Antigone? Such questions are the main paths I had to walk in our seven days stay in Stockholm.

Ten strangers were met to do art. Then we went to a strange land, and we had to do art with 20 other strangers through Zoom. Zoom: a new world to explore, a new place to do theatre, new problems and time-consuming tool.

But this project wasn't about Zoom it was about three groups placed in three different places doing their stuff and ending in a combined performance, an online live performance, zoom was our stage, other artists we could not see while playing were our audience. For me, as a performer I could not feel them, an audience that I cannot see or hear it is not an audience. Was I performing for the camera then? No, not exactly. Trying to be in harmony with our other-land partners I became audience too. Hearing my partners performing their scene in zoom so I could be ready for my scene changed my role... suddenly I was simultaneous a performer and a member of audience. All performers had to be audience too because the theatre scene has changed, and our partners were to a screen with squares and not physical next to us.

To my surprise the performance was successful. Not only we combined our acts to a story, but we worked with the same flow there is in a physical place. For the online theatre we had to find new means of communication so it could work. In this digital theatre two are the important factors, one: sound but not speech not spoken words because they could have been lost in internet connections. And two, image. Here comes the role of a human actor, with their bodies and motion to create strong communicative images. Sound and bodies communicate the story to screens, but we must be careful with the trap of what are we making. A video, a movie or theatre play? The heart of theatre is being present, being in the now. Online, live, human performing can be a new form of theatre, the digital one.

**MARINA ZERDALI**



Going back to the beginning of my journey before going to Stockholm to build the performance I wrote this poem:

*a walk of 2  
We are 2 drops of water  
We flow-we walk-we flow  
like one creek  
on slow dying streets  
on roads thirsty of breath*

*we are 2 drops of water  
we walk-we flow-we walk  
looking for the House of aqua  
in a desert of Human bodies  
bodies thirsty of breath and lust*

*....  
We were  
We were flowing  
We were walking  
We were*

*And now the water is spitting us  
back to the soil  
back to the Earth  
back to the Eternal monad*

*-the house of 1-*



The poem was written for Antigone searching for water, but Antigone and water are just symbols. Symbols of the desire to communicate and the desire of being/existing.

MARINA ZERDALI



At the beginning, I was kind of scared of being part of a project with so many people coming from different cultures and starting points.

### **“How will this work?”**

Thankfully, from the very first moment I was reassured I was in a safe environment where I would be given space to express myself, but also have the opportunity to see perspectives of fellow artists that would evolve my way of thinking.

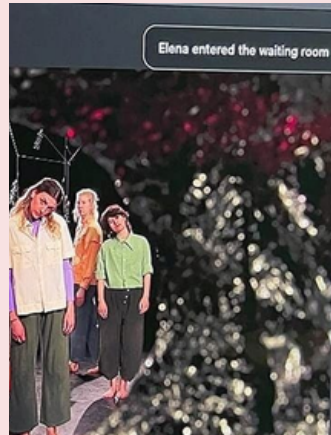
This delightful experience definitely improved me as an artist and as a person, having the chance to work together with others, but also be heard and respected. I was never silenced and at the same time I was challenged.

A great combination in order to feel that you are valued but also being pushed to give your all, to filter what you have to say and go beyond your normal standards for the good of the project.

I'm deeply grateful I was part of this experience, for the people I met but also for the final result of our performance. I hold these memories warmly in my heart and mind and I hope I will have the opportunity to work with these people -participants and mentors- again in the near future.

**ALEXANDROS RELLOS**





### **Crafting Together: A Creative Journey with the Hybrid Residency Program ....**

Embarking on the Hybrid Residency Program with Theatre in Palm felt like stepping onto a creative rollercoaster, blending the timeless narrative of Antigone with the urgency of environmental themes. As a theater student, the opportunity to collaborate with artists from the corners of Greece and Sweden was a deeply personal exploration into uncharted creative territories.

Before immersing myself in the program, a mix of excitement and worry brewed within me. Antigone's well-known narrative, delving into socio political struggles, left me curious about how our group, with its different creative styles, would interpret it. Expecting to meet individuals with distinct ideas, especially coming from a background of mainstream theater plays, added an intriguing layer to my anticipation.

Our initial week in Greece brought a mix of challenges as we wrestled with diverse interpretations of Antigone. Finding common ground demanded not only extensive discussions and compromises but also heart-to-heart connections. Amidst the chaos, a transformative moment occurred during a leisurely walk to Thessaloniki's port. Sharing stories and capturing moments with Polaroid snapshots, that our lovely mentor Evita provided, helped not just solidify our vision but also deepen our bonds as a group.

The shift to Finland marked not only a change in location but also a transition from formal introductions to genuine camaraderie with our Swedish counterparts. Mentors Miina and Mervi, with their perfect blend of structured and motherlike discussions and our essential coffee refills, created an environment that didn't just encourage creativity but also provided genuine connections.

In the background, our creative process evolved into a practical yet personal method. Writing down ideas, categorizing them, and trying them on stage became more than just a spitfire brainstorming technique. It became a personal exploration of what felt right not just for the mind but for the body as well.

**ELLI KALOUDI**



Decision-making wasn't always smooth, especially when defining our overarching theme. Surprisingly, the theme of revolution emerged organically as we merged the fundamental ideas brought back from the first week of the residency. The combination of different art forms, but especially the addition of hip-hop dance, a deeply personal passion of mine, added a layer of physical expression, symbolizing rebellion and unity within our collective work.

After the fact, the evolution of our theme came naturally, although it wasn't, in a way, our initial goal. Merging influences led us to discover not just common ground but also a shared passion.

On a personal note, I am forever grateful to my teammates for allowing me to blend my passion for theater and hip-hop, two art forms seldom combined.

Picture a live performance captured by three cameras, in three countries, yet no live audience in sight. Connectivity concerns were present, but our final act unfolded seamlessly, showcasing not just our team's resilience but also our passion to share our creation with a broader audience. The absence of a live audience didn't lower our spirits, if anything, it fueled our shared desire to share our creation with others.

Accomplishing the creation of art with nine strangers, each with unique perspectives and artistic skills, was empowering and deeply educational. The combination of acting, dancing, and directing experiences allowed me to not just see but personally feel how different media can shape our decisions and viewpoints.

As the residency concluded, a sense of accomplishment settled in. Collaborating with individuals from diverse backgrounds wasn't just empowering, it was a deeply personal journey, offering insights into the universal language of art that reaches beyond geographical and cultural boundaries.

In conclusion, I've not only grown as an artist but also as an individual. Uncertainty about my creative purpose transformed into clarity, and being part of a collaborative effort including twelve countries was not just an eye-opening experience but a deeply personal one. Meeting people from different backgrounds shattered not only predetermined limits but also personal barriers, leaving me with a fresh belief in the boundless potential of collaboration in art.



**ELLI KALOUDI**







I feel very proud and honoured to have been a participant of this Hybrid Residency program. It was a great opportunity to meet and collaborate with fellow artists working in various fields. Most importantly, however, to have the opportunity to travel to a foreign art institution, in my case, the Turku University and take a glimpse of how the everyday artistic practice there looks like.

Our facilitators, Minna Haapasalo and Mervi Rankila-Kallstrom were amazing. I would like to thank them for this great experience. They had everything organised perfectly, and they were extremely friendly and helpful, catering for our needs when those arose.

At first, I was sceptical about the idea of working so intensely and with that many people. Yet, it was remarkable to witness the creation that can spring from the gathering of a variegated group in such a short time. A group that bypassed cultural and personality differences having the collective as an aim. We managed to share our views and creative approaches, to have fruitful discussions, and to collectively make instant decisions trusting ourselves and the group. Trust never fails. What is more, we shared our realities from our home countries; how the situation is for artists, their challenges, demands, and opportunities. That solidified our community.

*In the end, I figure it was more about the people rather than the produced performance. It was a great performance indeed and I am owning it with pleasure. But what I would keep close to my heart are the wonderful friends I met.*

PANAGIOTIS LAGANAS





I was from the lucky ones to participate in the Hybrid Residency, organized by Theatre in Palm, together with other 120 international artists. For me, it was a total unique and thrilling experience.

To begin with, the structure of the residency itself - to work in our home country, leaving behind material for the other artists, and taking material with us to use in the host country- apart from being an original and innovative idea, it was also a fundamental tool for me, regarding the creative process, that helped me to expand my imagination, and to make a strong creative connection with the other two countries of my trio.

All the creative steps of building the narrative of the performance, stemming from the strong cooperation of my team, was my best part of the residency, and I consider it, as a stepping stone for my future artistic path.

Focusing in the procedure, what I really enjoyed during the rehearsals, starting from scratch, was how the “round table” exchange of ideas, led to choices, rejections, problems, impasses, practices, attempts, actions, and finally, to the birth of our performance. Our team developed a collective trust, coming from every single artist for a common target. This atmosphere of mutual trust and respect from people of different cultures and artistic fields, really moved me and incited me to give my best collaborative self.

Furthermore, I want to highlight the key role of our two mentors in both the two countries, who were always there to support, guide and unblock us.

Despite the little available time for the realization of the performance, I feel that we reached an exceptional level of creative work. The real time, online performance, was also a great challenge for me as an artist, how to approach it and to explore all these new fields and potentials of digital performing arts, that filled me with inspiration and eagerness to seek for new perceptive regarding the concept of performance.

Thus, during these two full of creativity weeks and beautiful collaborations, I broadened my artistic horizons and connected to wonderful, passionate and talented artists! The Hybrid Residency was an artistic stimulus for me and exceeded even my highest expectations.

During the two-week project implementation by Theatre in Palm, with the culmination of our participation being our visit to Stockholm, Sweden, talented young individuals, we gathered as a team and collaborated as a trio alongside Sweden (Intercult) and Finland (Turku AMK) in a very beautiful and welcoming space, the gallery Den Fantastiska Platsen.

Through collective immersion in discussions about the tragic story of Antigone, with a lot of creativity, team spirit, dedication, and hard work, we diligently worked on the script, incorporating movement, improvisation, music, video, acting, and hybrid interconnections with other trios. With the help of our coordinators, guides, and mentors, and the talent of all participants, we presented an amazing result and demonstrated how theater in evolution can adapt beautifully and, along with technology and new forms of art, showcase its strength and resilience.

Warm thanks to all participants and partners for this wonderful journey, this magical experience!



## MICHALIS KARAYIANNIS



As part of a European project Theatre in Palm, I had the opportunity to travel to Stockholm, where, together with Greek and Finnish young artists, we experienced a unique journey filled with creativity, thoughts, images, dance, improvisation, and inspiration.

Centered around the story of Antigone, we collaborated with determination, shared, connected, presented new ideas, transformed the theatrical act, built bridges of communication and artistic creation.

Warm thanks to all participants, mentors, and guides, both in Greece and from Sweden and Finland, and, of course, to the organizers and supporters of the project who led us to this amazing experience and contributed to its creation.

I look forward eagerly to the next collaboration!

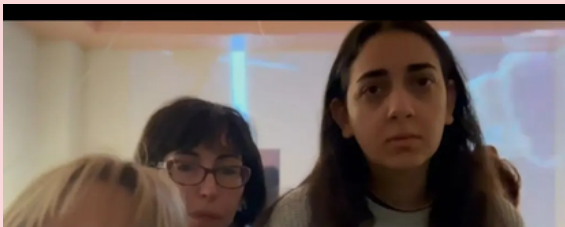
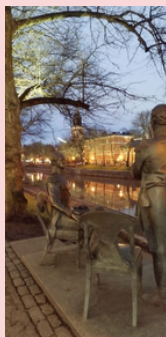
## ELPINIKI KOUKOURA



# PHOTOS



# ZINI



**THE PHOTOS BELONGS TO  
THE "THEATRE IN PALM"  
PROJECT.**



*CUBER'S*  
*ZIN*