

danceWEB 2013 EXPERIENCE REPORT BY IVO DIMCHEV

Danceweb.... Mentorship.....I have been danceweber 2003.....my mentor was Ko Moroubushi....we rarely met him.....I payed not much respect to him.....but in those days I payed no respect to almost anybody. I believe now is different. Actually It took time for a friend of mine to convince me that it would be good for me to apply for danceweb cos I thought that I have nothing to learn. I was so wrong. Few things I have experienced in my dancewebing still resonate in my work.

One year after Danceweb I was able to put together my first solo Lili Handel. Being a weber i consider as one of few most confusing moments of my artistic education.

I was constantly punched in my face by my own physical/performative limits at the same time seeing all the shows allowed me to realise how many things Im not interested in considering staged art.

So finally when danceweb was finished I had no choice but to do everything I didnt like so much to see on stage ...even the stage itself. My first project after danceweb was a an improvised street performance called Volksmother. And it was everything I was able to do at this moment after removing everything i didn't like seeing. Strangely enough the result was a messy and bloody queer horror. An year after I managed to domesticate on stage this horror and thats how my first solo Lili Handel came to life.

So I can say danceweb had a very refreshing impact on me. Mentoring-wise...not really. I didn't care about my mentor ..at all.

SO....when I was invited as a mentor....I was like.....how the hell Im going to deal with a position that me personally I dont respect as such?..

Obviously I had a very limited, subjective perspective of what the position of the danceweb mentor is.

So I thought for a momenthow the fuck I can exist in a situation which by default is not really requiring my assistance.

I was like hmmm NO, I can not exist in such a situation like myself only, I need to make my position more fruitful/useful for this environment than only being myself in it.

I need a device to replace me. This devise can be a task. This task can be.....lets say.....

The Critical Blog. Perfect!

The blog can make the webers connect more deeply with the context they are in and also will make more visible to themselvs their own nature and level of understanding the work they see, and on the other hand it can a very interesting read for the artists themselves and hopefully to others related to the same context.

So there is a little for everyone and I don't feel anymore useless as a mentor /cos in my brain by default the word mentor correlates very actively with the word useless/.

And it was all fine...until the moment I decided to have individual meetings with the webbers.

Oh God...that was so pathetic. 30 min scheduled talk about whatever....so unpractical, so useless, so artificial. Ok Im dramatising....some of the talks were nice....but in those ones we didn't talk about work at all.

There was a moment I liked very much....it was when we gathered for a group writing....and in beginning there was some protests about my email saying that I wont have individual meetings with people who have written less then 10 reviews. It was a

moment when I felt very connected with the group and I felt their energy. I liked this diverse group of bored, angry, tired, passionate, nervous or blunt faces in the same place at the same time. It was inspiring that there was a moment we confront each other face to face. Such moments are precious, cos we couldn't do our agendas, neither we have an organised friendly group agenda...but we just confront each other with our opinions for 20-30 min. Beautiful. Then we went on with writing our reviews, listening music, drinking, eating or dancing. Lovely.

So Danceweb, THANKS for the invitation, for the challenge and for the inspiration.

Always yours

Ivo Dimchev