



CROATIAN NATIONAL THEATER IN ZAGREB



Meantime, Between Failures

7 – 20 November 2023 | Croatian National Theater in Zagreb, Croatia

ARBAJT KOLEKTIV

The Arbajt Kolektiv is formed in 2021 by working on a solo performance "Arbajt". Members of this interdisciplinary collective are artists Šimun Stankov (dancer and choreographer), Una Štalcar Furač (dancer and choreographer), Espi Tomičić (playwright and writer), Branimir Štivić (new media artist), Tena Starčević (art historian) and Ivana Korpar (translator and producer). The main focus of collective's activities is gathered around relationship between art and work in order to question the romanticization of precarious working conditions in art.

In October 2023, the collective comes out with the play "Arbyte 2.0", which is a continuation of earlier thoughts, further developing them choreographically and dramaturgical procedures by shaping parallel construction processes of all components of a performance. Arbajt Kolektiv deals with the issue of working conditions and work processes through different performance formats and places these issues in different performance spaces, such as artistic interventions in public space, dance performances, exhibitions etc

ARTISTS INVOLVED



Performers:

- Šimun Stankov
- Espi Tomičić
- Una Štalcar-Furač

Technical setup and performance:

- Branimir Štivić

Support:

- Tena Starčević
- Ivana Korpar

THE RESIDENCY

From 7th of November until 20th of November 2023, the collective was working on the performance "Meantime, Between Failures". The artists decided to present themselves (and independent scene) with durational performance 11,5 hours long. The thought behind this decision was to make the most of this one-time opportunity of being invited in the National Theater of Zagreb. The idea was maximum utilization of the resources of the space provided by the theater with a clear emphasis on working conditions on an independent scene. The collective knew that the next day they will be again without space or any other resources besides their own.

Period of rehearsals was focused on preparing the performance and creating concept that could pinpoint mentioned problematics. The performers rehearsed the main points of a performance: Arbyte 2.0, Production, Endurance,

Factory and they designed the Strike part of the performance which was made through multimedia approach of using scenography elements and projections.

During the rehearsals period, performers held meetings with the director and cameraman who filmed the whole performance. The material will be used for creating an art film about this durational performance.

*The residency at the theater, combined with the invaluable tools acquired during the workshop, synthesis of theoretical insights and practical skills has played a great role in shaping a local production for the **Arbajt Kolektiv**. As a result, the **local production of Arbajt Kolektiv** emerged stands as a testament to the fusion of artistic expression and environmental consciousness. This type of production and work showed that combination of theoretical foundations from the workshop and the hands-on experience of the residency not only elevates individual capabilities but also enhances the overall quality and authenticity of the theatrical production on the questions of the suitability that we want more to be incorporate in the theatre productions.*

Are we the spokespersons of the independent art scene in the context of National Theater? What is our sustainability? Do we have it? Can we analyze it?

What is the sustainability of a theater products – performances and shows? Is an art collective sustainable community? What could be the indicators?

Arbajt Kolektiv gathered information about doughnut research and gained a closer look at the way scientists approached the observation of the sustainability of the National Theater in Zagreb during the workshop with IPA institute. This workshop directed artistic thoughts to the problematics of unsustainable communication and working conditions between independent scene and institutions in Croatia. In this case, Arbajt Kolektiv as a representer of independent scene and National Theater in Zagreb as an institution.

Arbajt Kolektiv found its sustainability in this project by using all the resources of an institution that could develop and upgrade the performance even more. Arbajt needs a space for representing its work – Arbajt used the whole 11,5 hours of a space that could been used. The space was used for performing the whole day since the performance is the main medium of action in the collective.

Also, the collective offered an idea of making the relation between independent scene and institution more dynamic and mutual which was “Alternative season 2023/2024”. This type of a program could open communication pathway with different audience, create various works and come to grips with established ways of institutional production of art.

PERFORMANCE ANNUNCIATION:

8:00 - 8:15 gathering of the Arbajt Kolektiv on the northern side of the Croatian National Theater

8:15 - 9:30 chain transfer of scenographic material and props to the performance space

9:30 - 10:30 setup and space adjustment of the Arbajt Theater

10:30 - 11:00 BREAK - snack (snack content organized depending on physical condition contractor)

11:00 - 12:00 test - warm-up of performing bodies - establishment - commissioning

12:00 - 13:45 1. performance by Arbajt Kolektiv: ARBYTE 2.0

13:45 - 14:00 MEANTIME: replay of the set-up and adjustments of the space

14:00 - 15:45 2. performance by Arbajt Kolektiv - PRODUCTION

15:45 - 16:30 MEANTIME: performance lunch

16:30 - 17:15 3. performance by Arbajt Kolektiv - ENDURANCE

17:15 - 17:45 FAILURE: resting of performing bodies - strike

17:45 - 18:00 MEANTIME: replay of the setup and adjustments of the space

18:00-18:45 4. performance by Arbajt Kolektiv - FACTORY

18:45 - 19:30 evacuation of the Arbajt Theater from the Croatian National Theatre

19:30 searching for a space for the re-staging of Arbajt Teater



UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) LINKED TO THE WORKSHOP

