

Again in the Whirl of Collective Dreaming (My **Catch Your Moment 2021**)

by Anna Prokopová

An inspiring encounter with improvisation and theatre in the second largest city in Bulgaria. Plovdiv welcomed us with a steamy summer embrace and typical Southern hospitality, combining ancient history with romantic and modern elements of architecture. The important project European Capital of Culture Plovdiv 2019 draws attention to current trends in culture and art (let's create #together).



Right at the beginning, the training facilitators led us on the path of play-based learning, active listening, inclusion and encouraged us to step in front of people (entrepreneur's mind, leadership). We broke the ice soon after each participant had 90 seconds to shine in an imaginary spotlight, to perform an (improvised) speech, make contact with others or perceive a shared presence in time (real-time resonance). Day after day, we worked out in more detail what is expected, so it was no big surprise when we found out in the second half of the week about a

planned event on the local stage called *Hand Theater*. The preparation for the performance took place for about a day, in smaller groups.



From my point of view, it was an enriching experience, because in our women's circle we decided to trust in horizontal teamwork without a dramaturgical outside-eye and created a piece with a storyline, but at the same time kept enough space for improvisation. I also experienced difficult moments when we could not agree on the principles of the procedure of joint work. This led me to distance myself at times as I did not find opportunities to remain active under the mentioned circumstances. However, shared working conditions eventually united us and contributed to a sense of solidarity. Also interesting was our final stage product with a touch of "ghost story", starring the main character of a beautiful young girl, thematizing her mysterious

fate during the unfortunate events at a party of young adults. As a spectator, I had the opportunity to learn from different theatrical ideas in other shows and reward them with much applause.



I appreciate **Catch Your Moment 2021** with joy. Love for the process of education fills me and brings me feelings of positivity. I am excited both about the very approach of the organizers and my new colleagues. I am in contact with some of them and we are happy about mutual friendship. In Plovdiv, variously gifted beings full of contagious energy came together, with diverse interests, but with a unifying passion for creativity on a professional level. Personally, I have made progress in many directions, so thank you very much and I recommend to all who like :-) to work with people and / or to be on “the boards, that mean the world”.

Photo: Bistra Yakimova, Anna Prokopová, Hristiana Stoyanova, Vladan Četojević

