

Sándor Petrovics' REPORT

2025 december 8-12, 10am-5.30pm

Alexander Vantournhout workshop (Not Standing Company)

Bruxelles, TicTac Center.

Run by the legendary David Zambrano (flying low, couple dancing, passing through)

The program was based on the distinctive movement language of the fusion of minimal circus and contemporary dance of Not Standing Company. Each morning a long warm-up lead by follow artists took place. Really giving time for the nervous system to log in, for the Achilles-tendon to stretch, the backs to roll, and hand/knee joints to warm.

From the first day on we also elaborated what falling means and the different means of it mostly on mats. Using judo, jiu-jitsu practices. In the afternoons the groups united and learnt the "7 hand shakes". That is how two people can shake hands without letting go of the thumb as the axis. With this simple task we started to get a new and crystal clear understanding and directions of the folding of the joints. Next step as a result quite complex structures started to appear that lead to lifts and changing levels, jumps and so on. Endless playground. Each task, each try was with another couple so that we collected many experiences.

Other hand-related disciplines were under the scope each resembling an endlessly flowy state between bodies. Each day we revisited these principles with some add-ons. On top of that techniques originated from acro yoga appeared preparing the way for the 5 days long learning of a single duett. It was amazing to see how from the very basics of any techniques they managed to create a super simplistic yet distinctive material based on repetition and acceleration.

From the second day on the group was divided and Emmi Väisänen and Chia-Hung Chung (other company members) gave lessons on footwork, handstanding technique, assisted stretching and more. These insights into their own practices, warm-ups and combinations on floor and on feet were means of reminder of how much I own and am capable of doing. Batyu came in my mind and house classes that I took lately in Budapest and gave strong base for these excercises. Floorwork and handstandings were reminders of my mid-twenties and were amazed that at age of 38 I am still on the pitch and pushing it like the 10-20 years younger participants.

What is my take-away in global?

A strong reminder that everything I own has a strong foundation and can be interpreted on various levels. As well as a reminder of how much I have and that the seemingly unfathomable inspiration stands on very different cornerstone in regards of style, dynamics, and taste. This gave impulses and encouragement as well as refreshment in regards to my teaching and choreographic work.

Tic-Tac Center is not only a studio but it houses performances and residences. Thus we came to see 2 shows in 5 days which was optionally part of our workshop. The first one was birthday present for David Zambrano and the second was a compilation of the work of Not Standing Company including work from the far past all the way to their premier of 2027! In the

aforementioned piece the music of Bolero is going to be played and instead of people whirligigs / snails / peg-tops of different size, colour, shape and physical ability dance on a poker table. It was genius!

It was really refreshing to see, dance, learn, meet (also with the Hungarian Lea Kiss - former student of BCDC). The company offers an audition in February. I might go and test myself.



