

In this conversation, we talk with Antonio Jorgos Papazis, a student from Folkwang Universität der Künste, who shares some of his thoughts, experiences and some of the things he has learnt during his time at the 8. Tanzausbildung Biennale Stuttgart.

This conversation begins with Antonio asking us (Nicola and Parvathi) if it's our first time at the Biennale and we speak a bit about our special position, as people who have been tasked with documenting the Biennale. We speak about how it's a privileged position and that it was great that the documenting task was very open and non-prescriptive. [01:00 - 2:40]

We then played a simple game with Antonio to arrive at some prompts that he could respond to. The prompt he got was: *Sustaining myself looks like...* He spoke going with the flow and being more 'back' than 'front', and coming 'back' to himself, and going back as a remembrance of who we are. [03:40 - 07:00]

The second prompt was: *Behind my mask I am...* Antonio responded to this by saying there is no mask, and when he does something instinctively or unconsciously, he does not have a mask. [07:00 - 09:37] When we asked him if there was a moment or event from the Biennale that he'd like to share, he spoke about enjoying perspectives that were different to his. He said how interesting it was to hear from different dancers, especially after Covid. He spoke about how the Biennale has allowed a release and for people to do and say what they think, and this gave him a lot. [09:37 - 12:00]

We asked him if there was a shift in the past week that may impact his practice and he responded by saying he really enjoyed seeing his teachers not in the role of teachers this past week. Even though it felt awkward in the beginning, it opened a lot around the teacher-student dynamic, and seeing his teachers as just humans. Antonio also spoke about one teacher saying he wanted to learn from the students and that was interesting. [12:00 - 14:52]

Antonio then asked us the same question, what about this week has impacted on us. Nicola spoke about how the week reminded them of their past, how their ballet and contemporary training was interrupted by an injury and they moved more into performance. And how the week allowed them to re-meet dance in a more inspiring way, and how dancing with other people is very political and important. Nicola also spoke about how they'd like to do more classes or find a dance group when they leave the Biennale. They spoke about how achieving a certain technique can both hurt and empower you, and that can co-exist. [15:08 - 20:45]

Parvathi resonated with what Nicola said, explaining that she also comes from a rigorous classical dance background, but Indian dance. She spoke about considering her dance community as something she left behind in India, and that she misses dancing in a group. She spoke about the feeling of not dancing perfectly enough, as well as making dance works that need to mean or change something and how both of these have held her back. She asked herself the question: "Beauty or joy - what is the point of dance?" and how aesthetics are not uniform, but joy is necessary. She said to move in spite of and because of political circumstances is the point that we celebrate our life. And these are some of the realizations she's taken from the

Biennale. [20:45 - 24:43]