



Piscina Mirabilis

#an eternally rising state

June 8 -11 2022
Midlands Arts Centre
BE Festival, Birmingham

atmospheric project
in the frame of the project 18M8L supported by Boarding Pass Plus of the Italian Ministry of Culture
in collaboration with Triennale Milan and Istituto di Alti Studi Coreografici nomadic research space
curated by KLM & guests

concept Michele Di Stefano
curated by mk
in collaboration with Chiasma

Foreword

The idea of a thematic area of choreographic research collected under the name of 'Piscina Mirabilis' comes from the desire to address primarily to a vast and non-exclusive community of dancers, performers, actors-actresses, athletes, bodies, figures and people whose address is to project themselves on 'the scene', a scene that does not necessarily coincide with the canonical one of the professional activity of performing arts but is defined as an unexpectedly everyday place, where the body and thought in movement can act in the awareness of a gaze both close and external, and are not informed by a predefined role. In search of a possible alliance with the other bodies that inhabit a precise space.

We want to intercept that energy excess that secretly feeds a very large number of people interested in seeking their individuality even in movement, as posture and tension not directed to any pre-existing practice but open to an unprecedented understanding of themselves and others on the basis of pure dynamic expressions.

Piscina Mirabilis aims at meeting the bodies in a stage that precedes any formal and artistic result, in the free skill and concentration of a doing that is before any service to the performance, to the public, to the production, to the finalized study, to the 'sharing' and to the laboratory. I.e. meeting them while they are intent on 'something else', which is impossible to regulate in advance.

Piscina Mirabilis wants to encourage the enactment of an incandescence of the body - dynamic, prehensile, adventurous - in an empty space, circumscribed by the possibility of being there exclusively to be present, in complete solitude but open to immediate exchange, always at a total loss with respect to an idea of aesthetic fulfillment.

Piscina Mirabilis creates a time, a duration and therefore a place where to carefully manipulate this extroversion and physical articulation of oneself, with the only certainty of being surrounded by the same potential of other bodies, in a soft cohabitation always aware of the environment in which it evolves.

Arbitrary nonchalance of a physical intensity not yet programmable.



The appointment

Before the performance, before the rehearsals, the workshop, the training, the warm-up, the body. A place dedicated to research, open, where to immerse oneself in pure happening, without hierarchies of power and risk, without construction, transmission, reflection. A strange habit to build without speeches, a pool to return to.

Each session will last at least 1 hour and a half..

At the entrance we are welcomed and instructed on the basic conditions for accessing the space, after which every behavior and development is entrusted to the body of the participant.

Some simple rules of access to the space will encourage the descent to the body with the only certainty of being in a very exposed and very intimate place at the same time.

For each session an environmental chronology of the event is created, which can be sound visual or atmospheric, independent and autonomous with respect to the development of the internal action, entrusted to an artistic unit different each time.

In the recurrence of the appointment we tend to build the habit of a place of the possible, where to articulate the corporeity without selections or hierarchies, with a potential of investigation and research that can also include its failure, without affecting its precious fragility of unseen environment or, better, letting its fragility be exposed to the outside, like a field to be organized in the open air during the storm.

Piscina mirabilis is open to anyone who wants to experiment and contribute to create this recurring event. In the space you can enter without shoes and after having read the rules of its happening.

Piscina mirabilis can also be visited for the pure desire to watch (to be discussed with the organizers)

Etiquette

Thank you for wanting to participate and for respecting some simple rules:
this is a place dedicated to research, open, where to immerse oneself in pure happening, where to explore the physical articulation of self,
without hierarchies of power, without construction and reflection, and without irony.

In the Piscina space you enter without shoes.
We ask you to respect the absolute delivery of silence.
The proximity and coexistence between bodies are the secret resource of each.
Contact, when it happens, is always superficial.
Take space, leave space, others will suggest how.
Avoid any preconceived movement patterns; the environment suggests posture.
For all that is exposed, the body does not exhibit. Let it swim.
The eventual outside gaze is as gentle as your doing.
Enter and exit when you please.
Pleasure is the direct consequence of all effort.
For all that is exhibited, the body does not perform. Let it swim.
The eventual outside gaze is as gentle as your doing.
Enter and exit when you please.
Pleasure is the direct consequence of all effort.



"I think of another idea of nature, namely that of birth, of the world as the place where we all, living beings destined to disappear, come into being. It is this common nature - I insist - that allows us to think of anyone, human or non-human animal, in their full right to live freely in the world without harming anyone else. I would say not a utopia, but a foundational idea. To be based on birth, and not on origins, would mean thinking at the same time of a common space and, in it, the continuous renewal of generations."

"It's not that animals are unmoored from productivity, it's that they ignore it altogether, blessed are they."