

Brazil enthusiastically applauded the Czech and Ukrainian dance scene

Full theatres, standing ovations, warm reactions... The exceptional tour of three titles created in the Czech Republic with artists from the Czech Republic, Ukraine and Brazil at the Dança em Trânsito festival aroused extraordinary interest and attention. Over a two-week period from August 2 to 15, Brazilian and international audiences saw a series of 12 performances in theatres and public spaces in four cities. The initial Rio de Janeiro performance was followed by performances in Brasília, Goiânia and São Paulo.

The tour included four site-specific versions of **Rotas Afora**, each for a different public space. In the piece by Flávia Tápias, eight dancers and one musician from Prague performed together with the Brazilians. Five performances of **The Lion's Den** by the successful POCKETART ensemble of Johana Pocková and Sabina Bočková with live music by Lukáš Palán, of which three were indoor or outdoor and two in the UNLIMITED version with the involvement of local performers from Rio. And thirdly, the Ukrainian choreographer Yana Reutova, who lived in Prague after the outbreak of the war, presented the trio **Invisible Traces** three times, created for the Czech performers Lukas Bliss Blaha, Jitka Čechová and Žaneta Musilová. In the last location, Czech dancer Jitka Čechová alternated with Brazilian Clara da Costa. During the tour in the Czech Republic, Clara had already alternated with Yana Reutová in her project for the Louny Gallery, and thus laid the foundation for further cooperation both for this festival and for the next year.

"The Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic offered extraordinary opportunities for cooperation thanks to the EU – Recovery Fund," said Yvona Kreuzmannová, founder and director of Tanec Praha. "The National Recovery Plan thus supports international co-productions and their tours significantly more than ever before. We were successful with both applications for large cooperation projects with foreign festivals – the Canadian Quartiers Danses in September and the Brazilian Dança em Trânsito in August. This is a very special opportunity and experience for our artists. And when I say our, I mean Czechs and foreigners working here, including from Ukraine. Nine of them went to Brazil."

During the pandemic, Rio de Janeiro gained a great facility for dancing – a dancehouse called **Espaço Tápias** that opened in the spring of 2022. At the same time, its director Giselle Tápias has for many years been organizing the **Dança em Trânsito** festival, which takes place every summer (July – August) in a number of cities throughout Brazil. It invites the leaders of important European and overseas festivals to Rio so that they can see as much as possible from the South American and European dance scenes. The event includes discussion and networking between the two continents. Thanks to this, the idea of cooperation with the TANEC PRAHA festival was born.

Espaço Tápias offered a creative residency to artists from the Czech Republic, followed by the arrival of dancers from Brazil to the Czech Republic in June to complete the joint Rotas Afora project in Broumov and present it at the TANEC PRAHA festival also in Prague, Brno, Liberec and České Budějovice. At the beginning of August, our artists travelled to Brazil for the **Dança em Trânsito** festival. In addition to the Czech dancers (Lukas Bliss Blaha, Sabina Bočková, Jitka Čechová, Žaneta Musilová, Johana Pocková) and the musician (Lukáš

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Palán), the Brazilian choreographer Flávia Tápías also chose three Ukrainian women (Yana Reutova, Anastasiia Pavlovska and Valeriia Tsvirkunova). Rotas thus exudes energy and diversity.

The Czech ambassador to Brazil, Pavla Havrlíková, together with a representative of the Ukrainian embassy, did not miss the performance of **Rotas Afora** in the capital Brasília. "The harmony of contemporary dance and architecture – it's as if the ROTAS AFORA performance was tailor-made just for Niemayer's Brasilia," the ambassador said. "The artists danced through the ramp of the Museum of the Republic into its bowels, followed by the audience, so that the imaginary border between the stage and the auditorium vanished and the audience became a natural part of the whole story. A wonderful idea, a great experience!"

Equally favourable reactions accompanied the presentation of two other productions by artists from Prague – **The Lion's Den** and **Invisible Traces** – at the Dança em Trânsito festival.

Overview of the tour:

Rio de Janeiro – 6 performances:

Pocketart workshops with local performers: Espaco Tápías 1 – 3 August, and on:

2.8 Rotas Afora (BR/CZ/UA) – 20:00 Biblio Maison – indoor

4.8 The Lion's Den UNLIMITED (CZ/BR) – 18:00 Centro Cultural Banco de Brasil - Foyer

5.8 The Lion's Den (CZ) – 19:00 Centro Cultural Banco de Brasil – Teatro 1

5.8 Invisible Traces (CZ/UA) – 19:30 Centro Cultural Banco de Brasil – Foyer

6.8 The Lion's Den UNLIMITED (CZ/BR) – 10:30 Olympic Boulevard – outdoor

6.8 Rotas Afora (BR/CZ/UA) – 16:30 Largo da Candelária – outdoor

Brasília – 2 performances:

8.8 The Lion's Den (CZ) – 19:30 SESC Ceilandia – outdoor

9.8 Rotas Afora (BR/CZ/UA) – 17:30 Museu da República – Rampa – outdoor

Goiânia – 2 performances:

12.8 The Lion's Den (CZ/BR) – 19:30 SESI Goiânia Teatro

12.8 Invisible Traces (CZ/UA) – 20:00 SESI Goiânia – Foyer

São Paulo – 2 performances:

15.8 Rotas Afora (BR/CZ/UA) – 17:00, Centro Cultural FIESP/SESI, São Paulo – outdoor

15.8 Invisible Traces (CZ/UA/BR) – 18:20, Centro Cultural FIESP/SESI, São Paulo – Mezanine

The Tanec Praha co-production was supported by: Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic – National Recovery Plan, State Cultural Fund, Department of International Relations; the City of Prague, the Municipal District of Prague 3, Krenovka and SUDOP Real. The tour was also sponsored and supported by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Brazil. Thank you!

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