

## **Cultural tip: Tanec Praha will present the premiere of the Invisible Traces project by Ukrainian dance artist Yana Reutova**

**Yana Reutova, a choreographer, dancer and dance instructor from Chornomorsk, has been living in Prague for two years now. She had her own dance studio in Odessa and was engaged in many professional activities. She had to leave everything behind because of the war. Now she works intensively with Czech artists and has become part of the local artistic community. On Saturday, May 27, she will join the program of the multi-genre festival Žižkov Mezidvorky twice. First, at 4 p.m. on Kostnické Square with an interactive performance for children called On the Road, and from 6 p.m. above Krenovka, she will present the premiere of the Invisible Traces project, which follows up on the performance of POCKETART.**

**On the Road**, an interactive performance for children, was created by Yana Reutova at the end of August last year with four dancers from Ukraine and two musicians from the Czech Republic thanks to the support of Tanec Praha, IDU and the Create to Connect project, the VIA Foundation and the Člověk člověku Foundation. It will be the 15<sup>th</sup> repeat performance in Žižkov's Kostnické Square in that short time!

**Invisible Traces** is the second part of the **Together Alone** triptych, which Yana Reutova also started working on last summer. The first was a quintet for Ukrainian dancers with the subtitle **Lost**. Lost in an unknown land, far from their loved ones, thrown together here and now, and yet each alone. The work was selected for the Czech Dance Platform, as well as the Ukrainian Platform in Vilnius and will now be represented at the L'Altre Festival in Barcelona.

For the second part of the **Invisible Traces** triptych, Yana decided to approach Czech artists Jitka Čechová, Lukas Bliss Blaha and Kata Jabůrková. The musician with whom she likes to collaborate best, Tomáš Kerle, got involved in the project as well. And completely by chance, AVU graduates Lucie Podroužková and Štěpán Rubáš offered their "barre" facility for use. The project took on clear contours, various dancers joined for trips to Italy and Brazil, and it was supported by the State Fund for Culture.

The third part of **Together Alone** will be the duet **Endless Talks**, which was created again thanks to a chance meeting. In November, African dancer Ladji Kone was in Prague for a whole month and he and Yana started discussing and creating together. They will continue in the summer, test the preview at PONEC on **July 18**, and the world premiere of the entire **Together Alone** triptych will take place at the Kilowatt Festival in Italy. The Prague premiere is planned for September 30 at the PONEC Theatre. The production was supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, including the National Restoration Plan.

Another remarkable activity was the April opening at the **Benedikt Rejt Gallery in Louny**, where Yana also succeeded in connecting Czech and Ukrainian artists in the work **Strength in Beauty and Beauty in Strength**. It will be seen again at the same place, for example, on **June 8** from 4 p.m. as part of the **Tanec Praha 2023** festival.

"Many interesting works come my way and it gives me strength as well as freedom in the broadest sense of the word: in creation, where I can really do

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what I want and what I like," **Yana Reutova** said. "I also feel enormous support here, which I did not experience at home. In a democratic country, where I have a sense of safety and limitless freedom of speech, but also, for example, in a school where they accept my daughter and give her space." She came from Ukraine with her daughter and several of her students. She leads workshops for refugee children, has already created two interactive performances for the **Dance in Shelters** project, and is presenting more and more of them for Czech children as well. The chance to be part of the local artistic community and create together is essential for her. Until she can return home, where she will undoubtedly put all the experience to good use.

"We can hardly imagine what goes on in the mind of each refugee," said founder and director of Tanec Praha **Yvona Kreuzmannová**. "Yana suddenly found herself in Prague on 8 March 2022. We are helping her and many others – I think it is the least we can do in our powerlessness in the face of the war. But they are also a great asset to our environment, it's a mutually enriching process. I was especially delighted by Yana's success in the EFFE – European Festival Fund for Emerging Artists. Her work on the Together Alone triptych has thus garnered support from the EU along with the interest of several festivals where it already represents the Czech Republic."

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