

Walls and the Imagination:

FLOW 11th June 2016

Wroclaw, European Capital of Culture, 2016

Last year I visited Israel. I have never been in a country with so many walls, gates and barriers. So many guns. I knew Northern Ireland, with the walls which separated Catholics from Protestants. And I know only how well the wall in Berlin separated one half of a family from the other half. I remember waiting for hours to pass from France to Spain. And last year I had the opportunity to remember how life was across the whole Europe only a couple of decades ago - when I wanted to cross from Poland to Ukraine by car.

Equally, Israel struck me for the huge amount of effervescent energy people were dedicating to exploring what it meant to knock down walls. Walls between peoples. Walls between genders. Walls between religions. The walls inside of ourselves. I witnessed painful, urgent conversations. They were everywhere. In the streets. In the theatres. In the schools. And it was happening through dance! Yes, dance.

I am delighted to announce "Flow" – a whole day of free events in the middle of Wroclaw which touch upon the theme of diasporas, travel and movement of people. Three of the best, turbo charged, contemporary dance companies from Israel will be performing in the centre of Wroclaw on June 11th. With the help of artists and performers from Germany, Ukraine, Poland and Czech Republic and Holland, we are proud to announce an energising, inspiring and delightful day for everyone who wishes to take part. All events are free while some have a restricted number for audiences.

In its essence culture is a utopian activity. Even Shakespeare's "King Lear" encourages us to ask "what if" and "only if" questions...even if we live in a world of fear and walls, of traitors and internecine strife, in terror of our neighbours, our instincts and imaginations crave the space to conjure up alternatives. Culture is the space to which we turn to quench our human need to inhabit communal utopian spaces – even when such spaces are ephemeral.

The morning of "Flow" consists of four zones around the River Odra linked together by a wardrobe project, "Knock, Knock, Who's There?". Come and leave your own written or photo messages in the 21 wardrobes which will be found linking four zones together in the centre of the city. By doing so help us tell the world where your family came from – and where it might be going !

In each of the four zones you will find extraordinary events happening between 11am to 8pm – all for free. From contemporary dance on Wyspa Piasek (Sand Island), to a beautiful and enigmatic project involving eating Grandma's Jam in the Botanical Gardens. Audacious stories of surprise and risk can be encountered in University Square. The next zone consists of Nowy Targ Square, Hala Targowa, the blocks near Frycza Modrzewskeigo Street, the square in front of Academy of Fine Arts, Purkynieg Street between Radisson Hotel, The National

Museum and Slowackiego Park. Come and see a story unfolding over 60 years in front of your very eyes. And there is more. Much more. Exhibitions, workshops... for precise details and schedules of all the Flow events please see below.

At 10pm "Flow" culminates with an international musical and light performance on the Odra for a city audience. An orchestra and choir from four countries will perform a new work written from a deep collaboration between four young composers from Czech Republic, Israel, Germany and Poland within a musical frame written by Wroclaw composer, Pawel Romanczuk.

The walls which Pawel Romanczuk constructed for this piece of music are the kinds of walls which don't close down dialogue – but instead help an otherwise unstructured one to find form.

As the evening performance unfolds you will have the chance to see the buildings and river as rarely seen before. You should not miss this free event where ever you are. It is for you...and your imagination.

Scroll Down for Event Details:

FLOW

Wroclaw, European Capital of Culture, 2016

Part Three of The Flow Quartet

June 11th 2016

“With the stroke of a pen at the Potsdam Conference following the Allied victory in 1945, Breslau, the largest German city east of Berlin, became the Polish city of Wroclaw. Its more than six hundred thousand inhabitants - almost all of them ethnic Germans - were expelled and replaced by Polish settlers from all parts of prewar Poland.”

Gregor Thum, *Uprooted*.

The River Odra. Sometimes friend, sometimes angry, the Odra is the liquid-like backbone to this ever changing city. The river Odra and its surrounding parks, streets, buildings and accompanying bridges, will be the centre of focus for a series of international events and performances which tell the stories of 20th Century Breslau/Wroclaw, and present creative reflections upon the themes of “diasporas, migrations, immigrations” and contemporary European identities.

The events place the city, its citizens and diasporas and concepts of “the others” as the principle performers of the event. International voices and reflections are also active participants and makers of events.

“The Flow Quartet” is the name for the four biggest projects in Wrocław, European Capital of Culture, 2016 directed by Chris Baldwin, Curator for Interdisciplinary Performance and involving artists and citizens from many countries. They aim to tell the story of Wrocław to itself, to Poland, to Europe and beyond. The Flow Quartet consists of four interlinked projects;

- * Bridges - Mosty – June 20 2015,
- * Spirits of Wrocław (Opening Ceremony) – January 17 2016,
- * **Flow I and II – June 11 2016**, and
- * Niebo (Closing Ceremony) – December 16/17 2016

Below you will find details of all our events for Flow on the 11th June. */Times of some morning dance performances will be confirmed in the next few days./*

SUNDAY 5th JUNE

5th June – (8 pm) An opening taster for the week: A concert at Auditorium Marianum by the Chamber Choir of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance + welcome by Chris Baldwin - Curator for Performance Wrocław 2016.

SATURDAY 11th JUNE

FLOW – 11 June 2016 (Part 3 – The “Flow Quartet”) European Capital of Culture, Wrocław.

Flow is a major international cultural event taking part in the centre of Wrocław, around the river Odra on SATURDAY 11th June 2016.

FLOW I – 11 am to 8 pm

- * Four zones, within a few meters of the Odra river, will host adult and family events lasting the whole day.
- * All events are free entry but some restrictions placed on the number of people who can enter for safety reasons.

Zone 1: Sand Island (Wyspa Piasek)

Contemporary Dance Stage: (see table on next page)

Three of the best contemporary dance companies from Israel will be performing on one stage.
Free admission.

| Time: | Name of Company: | Description | Type of Entry: |
|-------|--|--|----------------|
| 11:00 | Nadine Bommer Dance Company | <i>The hilarious and international sensation, Invisi'BALL transforms the theater into a surprising and multi-cultural football field.</i> | Free |
| 12:30 | Machol Shalem Dance House in cooperation with Teatr Tańca Zawirowania | <i>All wars are the same but all wars are different. All people are the same but all people are different . All needs are the same.</i> <i>"HA-E" (The Island) is a creation for dance and theatre that deals with our basic needs as human beings searching for love and communication in a harsh and cold world.</i> | Free |
| 14:00 | Batsheva Dance Company | <i>Kamuyot breaks the traditional barriers between performers and audience, making audience members an integral element of a shared experience. 15 Ensemble dancers create a welcoming and magical space punctuated with the eclectic sounds of Japanese pop, reggae and vintage television themes, converting the term "performance" into a celebrative experience of audience and performers alike.</i> | Free |
| 15:30 | Machol Shalem Dance House in cooperation with Teatr Tańca Zawirowania | <i>All wars are the same but all wars are different . All people are the same but all people are different . All needs are the same.</i> <i>"HA-E" (The Island) is a creation for dance and theatre that deals with our basic needs as human beings searching for love and communication in a harsh and cold world.</i> | Free |
| 17:00 | Nadine Bommer Dance Company | <i>The hilarious and international sensation, Invisi'BALL transforms the theater into a surprising and multi-cultural football field.</i> | Free |

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|-------|------------------|-------|--|------|
| 18:30 | Batsheva Company | Dance | <i>Kamuyot breaks the traditional barriers between performers and audience, making audience members an integral element of a shared experience. 15 Ensemble dancers create a welcoming and magical space punctuated with the eclectic sounds of Japanese pop, reggae and vintage television themes, converting the term "performance" into a celebrative experience of audience and performers alike.</i> | Free |
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Bielarska Island workshops with Fundacja OnWater.pl

- Little Shipyard.

When I was small, I peeled the bark from trees to make boats. Where these boats, today? Can they be found ? Lost dreams.... For those visiting Bielarska Island they will find „Little Shipyard” a project prepared by OnWater.pl foundation. All children and adults are invited to use wood, string and canvas to fulfill their dream of making handmade boats and launching them on the Odra River.

- Historical Postcards of Breslau/Wroclaw

Come and make new postcards using the old, archive postcards from the OnWater.pl foundation collection. EVERYONE, young and not-so-young have the opportunity to see what Wroclaw and Odra looked like in past years. Additional attractions include writing your own card with memories from Wroclaw - European Capital of Culture 2016 - and send it to the world.

The Floating Boat of Memory

This visual and oral history project tells the story of the Lower Silesian Polish Jews. On Barca Tumaska, moored to Wyspa Mlzska , audiences are invited people to listen to the voices of the post war survivors and learn about the fate as well as the beauty of their lives. The languages of the Floating Boat of Memory are Polish, English and Yiddish with Polish and English subtitles.

Free entry: Open from 11am to 8pm

Zone 2: “Pewna Historia”, Nowy Targ to Slowackiego Park.

This zone consists of Nowy Targ Square, Hala Targowa, the blocks near Frycza Modrzskeigo Street, the square in front of Academy of Fine Arts, Purkynieg Street between Radisson Hotel and National Muzeum qnd Slowackiego park.

“Historia” consists of three activities in one: a street performances “**A Certain Story**” in the form of a walking trail in which different urban spaces are used to explore the hidden stories of families from Lower Silesia in the 20th century; an international dance collaboration, “**Dancenest**”; and a series of **workshops** taking place in Slowackiego park run by young artists from every corner of Europe.

„*A Certain Story*” - Beginning at Nowy Targ, and passing through local landmarks, the performance takes it's audience on a short, intense trail through four decades of 20th century family experiences in Wroclaw and Lower Silesia. It culminates in the reuniting the Spirits of Wroclaw and an invitation to the audience to contribute their family stories to this magical day. These family contributions will be the foundation material for Niebo – the closing ceremony of EcoC in December 2016.

Directly following on from this performance will be a performance by Dancenest, Breda, Holland, who have been working with dancers from Wroclaw on a new work especially for the event.

And then you are invited to participate in open air art workshops run by young artists from all over Europe!

Theatre Workshops – for children and adults to engage the imagination, concentration, memory, body consciousness, breathing and movement.

Singing Workshops: for those who like to sing (or want ot start with singing), for those who are curious about the melodies of other languages and want to develop their voice skills and experience of group singing.

Circus Workshops: activities for kids, youth and adults including juggling basics, acrobatics and physical play.

Dance Workshops: integrated dances of different nations – dances in a circle, line dancing, modern dances.

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| 10.30 – 12:20 | Nowy Targ – „Certain Story” – 1st Show (finishes at Panorama Raławicka at 12.20) |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | Dancenest show on the stairs and square of Panorama Raławicka |
| 12:00 – 12:20 | Performance at Purkyniego Street involving 4 Spirits of Wrocław |

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| 1:00 – 2:00 pm | Dancenest show on the stairs and square of Panorama Raławicka |
| 2:00 – 3:30 pm | 4 workshops (dance, singing, musical instruments, circus) – Park Słowackiego |
| 3:00 – 4:50 pm | Nowy Targ – „Certain Story” – 1st Show (finishes at Panorama Raławicka at 4:50) |
| 3:00 – 4:00 pm | Dancenest show on the stairs and square of Panorama Raławicka |
| 4:30 – 4:50 pm | Performance at Purkyniego Street involving 4 Spirits of Wrocław |
| 5:00 – 6:00 pm | Dancenest show on the stairs and square of Panorama Raławicka |
| 6:00 – 7.30 pm | 4 workshops (dance, singing, musical instruments, circus) – Park Słowackiego |
| 7:00 – 8:00 pm | Dancenest show on the stairs and square of Panorama Raławicka |

Zone 3: The Botanical Gardens

Botanical Garden is the location of “**Marmalade!**” an international Polish-German collaboration whose focal point is jam! Theater der Jungen Welt, Leipzig with European Capital of Culture, Wrocław, have prepared **Marmalade!** – a theatre, music installation and story-telling event focusing on the notion of taste memory - memories of home, jams made by our grandmothers using their well-kept secret recipes! Come and see the Botanical Gardens as you have never seen them before. Recipes and memories from Poland and Germany. Come and taste the stories, listen to the music and participate in a delicious marmalade picnic. The event is for families and lovers of flavours and is bound to evoke long lost memories.

Hours of shows: 11:00; 12.30; 2:00 pm; 3.30 pm; 5:00 pm; 6:30 pm;

Zone 4: University Square (Plac Uniwersytecki)

The area of University Square will be divided into stories of and told by Ukrainian people living in Poland. Specially prepared installations will enable audiences to move freely as performances happen throughout the day, all of which have been created and will be performed by people of Ukrainian origin. An opportunity to listen to stories told in unusual ways. Come and peek into the houses and dreams of others.

This evening event, organized the river Odra in the space between Sand Island and the Bridge of Peace, is going to be an extraordinary spectacle for a large city audience. Behind the scenes lies a precise and intimate process.

The starting point for the work was a scenario written by Chris Baldwin (director). Composer Paweł Romańczuk created a musical frame using this scenario - a few bars at the beginning and end of each of four sections. Four young talented composers have since developed these musical ideas to create an extraordinary piece of music.

Jiří Kabát (Czech Republic), Udi Perlman (Academy of Music and Dance in Jerusalem), Adam Porebski (Poland - Music Academy of Karol Lipinski in Wrocław) and Amir Shpilman (Hochschule für Musik Carl Maria von Weber Dresden) have composed the four parts of the cantata, which will be performed especially for the occasion by an orchestra composed of artists from Beethoven Academy orchestra (Poland), graduates and students of the Academy of Music of Karol Lipinski Wrocław (Poland), Hochschule für Musik Carl Maria von Weber Dresden (Germany), The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance (Israel) and Instrumentalists from the Czech Republic and big international choir.

This work is the backbone of an interdisciplinary performance, in which the river and surrounding buildings will play key parts.

The list of musicians and choirs is long and really impressive: The Orchestra of the Bethoven Academy, The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance Chamber Choir, members of the Jerusalem Academy's Mendy Rodan Symphony Orchestra, postgraduates and students of Karol Lipinski Music Academy in Wrocław, Students of Music Conservatory in Pardubice, students instrumentalists and choir of Hochschule für Music Carl Maria von Weber from Dresden, Chamber Choir Le Colisee Erkelenz, Academic choir Camerata Jagellonica from Jagiellonian Univeristy in Cracow, Academic choir of University of Life Sciences in Lublin, choir of University of Life Sciences in Wrocław, Gaudium choir of University in Wrocław, Ars Cantandi – choir of Wrocław Univeristy of Economics.

Participants in the show also include other kinds of fans of the river Oder, those who normally float on its waters and the surrounding waters. Boats are recast as actors in this show, and, along with the music, they help tell the story of the twentieth century in Wrocław.

The most attractive and natural place for the audience of this show will be along the bank of the Oder and the Peace Bridge. For those who want to see the show in a more intimate atmosphere – there will be the chance to see the show on TV screens at several places around the city.

The event will begin at 22.00 and will last approx 1 hour.

Background Notes:

Each part of the Flow Quartet has an outcome designed for a citywide, nationwide, Europe wide audience. As in all quartets this is a work for four instruments or voices:

* PEOPLE: the voices of artist citizens associated with the stories of Wroclaw/Breslau and the diasporas of the city now living around the world – predominantly in Germany, Israel, Ukraine and Czech Republic.

* SPACE: the public and open spaces, bridges, river, roads and parks of Wroclaw. We have found ourselves repeatedly using the Greek concept of “palimpsest” - a place or object with many half revealed layers, repeatedly in our work.

* SOUND and DESIGN: New music and design has been developed as the result of both intercultural collaborations and a celebration of the palimpsest nature of this city. We have commissioned music and designs from Polish lighting magicians and floating object builders to French Spirit makers, bringing the city as manuscript into dramaturgical relief.

* DRAMATURGY: By combining people, space and sound/design the Flow Quartet presents a story which do not reduce the complexity of this city but rather acknowledges the contradictions, the historic trauma and it's incredible achievements. The projects also explore the city's hopes for the future.

These four voices will intertwine at various points to create complex and somewhat unpredictable pattern. Each movement, each part of the quartet, is designed for tens of thousands of people to enjoy. But these four voices (artist citizens, space, sound/design and dramaturgy) are always present even when only one of them takes the leading role for a few bars.

* *The development of The Flow Quartet has been deeply influenced by Chris Baldwin's concept of Teatro de Creación (see <http://chrisbaldwin.eu/teatro-de-creacion-tdc/4588832780>).*