Feedback – DSV and Zip Zap virtual exchange

Zip Zap is grateful for your efforts in making this project possible. This has been an amazing opportunity for our students to be partnered with professional artists, and they have grown from the experience.

It has been a privilege and a wonderful learning experience, to participate in bringing this project to reality!

Observations:

There has been a visible improvement in technical aspects, and this was visible in each of the students’ work-in-progress performances in June 2021.

The students seem to have fun participating in and growing through the project, so there is a feeling that this project should definitely continue.

Next steps…

Brent has specifically mentioned that he would love to see more work done in the area of act creation, with artists supporting students in putting together a complete act, and the students performing the finalised result. He suggested providing a piece of music for each of the students, as a basis for such a collaboration between artists and students, and then watching the creative process be realized in a finished act. This would contribute to the process of creating well-rounded young performers.

Laurence has requested that Pascal engage with festival organisers to possibly bring at least 4 Zip Zap performers to the festival in January/February 2022 (performing BU), who could showcase how they have learned, developed and grown through this type of exchange. In 2019, as part of a skills exchange, The Wise Fools spent time at Zip Zap working with these performers, and such an opportunity would “close the loop” to highlight the success of that initial exchange.

Should this be agreed, there is currently 6 months’ preparation time and it would be hugely valuable if Pascal could possibly faciliate an artistic advisor from within his network, to work with them virtually during this period.

The recent virtual project could be used as a means to showcase the success of virtual learning in the circus arts, and creating a “bridge” between social and professional circus. This could encourage other artists to participate in similar future exchanges in continuing the project.

As a possible follow-up project, Laurence has identified 2 students who could benefit as a duo act (duo-acro, contortion), which would be the first of its kind for this project. They would require an artist(s) who could provide learning and guidance in artistic direction, technique, etc.

Laurence has also shared her thinking around the following needs:

* group sessions (hosted by artists identified by Pascal from within his network) that could include and benefit all D2D students, covering areas like:
* Steps to follow: idea 🡪 creation 🡪 realisation
* Introduction to IT
* CV writing
* aerial conditioning class(es) (hosted by artists identified by Pascal from within his network) to include all aerial students