



## Report

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Project: Pe Part!  
Elegia delle cose perdute

Reykjavík, March 30th 2023

### Collaboration

Collaboration on the project Be Part! Started in the autumn of 2021 when Lenka Flory contacted Dansverkstæðið to get support to connect with the Icelandic dance community. After successfully financing and planning, Flory was able to visit Dansverkstæðið in the summer of 2022 to conduct an audition for hopeful participants. After selecting a group of 5 artists Flory got the time to connect with producer Magdalena Tworek from Dansverkstæðið and artist Hemn A. Hussein.

Magdalena was appointed the local contact from Dansverkstæðið and followed the project throughout 2022 and early 2023. Tinna Grétarsdóttir, followed the entire project as general manager of Dansverkstæðið, took over as a contact person and link to the dance community in Reykjavík.

Hemn stayed well connected with the project through his work at Hamarinn, a youth centre in Hafnarfjörður (a town situated between Reykjavík and Reykjanesbær). He and Tinna attended the performance in Reykjanesbær. Hemn will now follow the project to its end by attending the performance in Prague in the spring as well as taking part in a panel discussion on the project. Hemn is an excellent candidate to represent the project and the focus group here in Iceland as he was previously an asylum seeker but now has permanent residence in Iceland.

## **Performance**

The performance *Elegia delle cose perdute* was performed in Reykjanesbær on February 11th 2023. Reykjanesbær is a town of about 20.000 inhabitants, situated close to Keflavík international airport and Ásbrú. The US Army had its base in the area for over 60 years and is therefore the town in Iceland that has been under the most international influence. Bringing the performance there was a wonderful way of tapping into those roots and painting a new picture of immigrants, their journey and connection with a local community.

*Elegia delle cose perdute* was performed in a hangar, next to the local arts museum in the centre of Reykjanesbær. Gathering such a large group of performers from dance, theatre and music in this large space made it a unique experience with a flavour not often seen in the Icelandic dance community. Being a sparsely inhabited country we rarely see many people performing at the same time which gave strength and importance to the event. Live music connected the background of each performer to the piece in a playful and meaningful way. Seeing a diverse group of artists, producers and audience enjoy this moment together made it an important moment for all.

## **Meeting at Dansverkstæðið**

After the performance anthropologist Olivera Tesnohlidkova conducted interviews of the participants at Dansverkstæðiðs studios in Reykjavík. Dansverkstæðið used this opportunity to invite the group of performers to a lunch at our premises on February 12th. With this we got to thank them for the performance and connect with them in a relaxed social event.

## **Lasting effects of the project in Iceland**

Two of the Iceland based artists that participated are now looking into ways of continuing the work in building connections with asylum seekers and refugees and to include them in local artistic work. This is a great example of the importance of international collaborations such as *Be Part! Took on*. The youth centre Hamarinn is also an active part in encouraging connections between young people of any and all backgrounds and we hope they can continue to support the artistic connections between all types of residents in Iceland.