



PORTO 20>23 SETTEMBRE 2013
RELAZIONE PARTECIPANTE DENISE MCNEE

The first day of the workshop was primarily an introduction to Visões Úteis and their work. The day was divided into two parts and the morning session was spent talking about the history of the theatre company, the structure and how they work. The afternoon session was composed of an exercise with the aim of physically demonstrating their working method. Divided into national groups we had to first talk about the beauty of our country and what makes it special and then from that take the best and create our own independent nation leaving behind all that which we don't love about our country.

The first day was necessarily a little lengthy given that not all the participants were actors. We do not all share the same vocabulary and even within the theatrical community terminology can mean very different things. Maybe the choice of Nations as a subject helped to highlight that in some way, I don't know, I'm struggling to see the connection. Perhaps just in keeping with the theme of the project, given the European project as a whole.

The second day for me was more interesting as it was actually part of a devising project, there-by a real exercise, with a real aim, rather than an exercise for exercise sake. Starting with a talk from an ethical hacker who explained the world and leading to an exercise where we were not only spies but spied upon. Ana and Carlos had explained the beginning that work that we did during the day would be used or could be used as part of their process. I found this part of the meeting stimulating and thought provoking. I have discovered things as an artist that I can use for my own work. I hope that we also inspired Ana and Carlos with different points of view.

I think there was a good balance between social and work time as plenty of time was given during lunch and dinner to talk to the other participants who I personally did not know. So the exchange was more than just to learn about Visões Úteis, but also about the other participants.