

About Devisa - Class B

December 13th, 2017

"Who Are You? and other important questions" is the first part of the ongoing work-in-progress being developed by the B Class of DEVISA, the youngest members of the Theatre and Drama Group headquartered at Rocha Peixoto Secondary School in Póvoa de Varzim, Portugal. Far from a closed or finished work, it represents a sort of checkpoint in the process that we have been structuring since the beginning of the school year and serves the purpose of introducing, in terms of theme and techniques, the way forward in the months to come.

In regards to the subject of the piece, we have been studying the problematics of "identity" in our modern world, reflecting about exactly who we are, how we perceive ourselves, how others perceptions influence our own sense of identity and how all these different components, when put together, rather than giving us straightforward answers, raise ever more questions. And that, in itself, is our main goal: to think and question, through the fictions of theatre, about what defines us and, maybe, how blurred the lines that divide us from one another actually are.

In terms of acting techniques, we have been employing the concept of "Buffon", the ancient stage archetype of the buffoon, the crazy prophet who speaks truth to power and delights himself in the shattering of the audience's sense of common reality. By laughing about such relevant and complex matters such as the ones we have been pursuing, our chorus of buffoons can freely express itself in the arena of the stage, raising it's satirical voice high above the audience's astonishment at such iconoclastical irreverence.

It is also worth mentioning that we have been and will continue to develop this piece in English in order to make the group's participation in the Erasmus+ project as universal as possible, an option that, in spite of the challenges it poses, affords our actor-students an unique opportunity to hone their proficiency with a foreign language through the auspices of the stage.

Three months ago, we raised the curtain on that singularly important question "Who are you?". We don't really know when or how it will close, but we can only hope that the time we spend in between is as full of questions as possible.