



READING SESSION:

Intergenerational aspect enhancing our artistic project

The Compagnie Irene K is very active in the field of working with senior citizens (50+) wishing to be creative. For several years now, several of our flagship projects have caught people's eye, not only making use of the valuable free time and life experience that senior citizens have to offer, but also to enable a familiar atmosphere and a sense of homeliness in what is supposed to be a cross-generational experience. After all – they could be the children's grandparents! Our aim is to enable senior citizens and young children to meet, in public libraries and schools for instance, as an additional and valuable dimension to this particular project.

First, we inform a group of senior citizens on the story itself, as well as the different ways the story can actually be read out loud to a group of children. After that, the citizens from the very town/city the performance will be taking place in, will be meeting the children. They will then tell them the story, or read it out to them. All this happens before the actual dance performance. That way, the children will have heard the story before seeing it translated into dance – no words necessary here! Our seniors should be seen as „ambassadors“ of the dance performance, as it were.

Basically, we are aiming at 2 goals here:

- › **a social perspective:** senior citizens, as well as their creative input, are being valued and respected
- › **An educational perspective:** the children develop a sense of curiosity and are encouraged to read and experience a sense of physical proximity, so often forgotten about in today's virtual world of communication. In dance, there simply is no need for words... In itself a reassuring experience in our multicultural society, where they might often feel „lost for words“.

We therefore suggest an intergenerational reading session, on top of our dance performance, which could be taking place in the classroom itself, or in the local library or youth club, for instance, as well as any other place where people tend to meet, broadening anyone's – and especially our children's – horizons.

