Prepare your net as TePI Digital Platform is here!

By Naine Terena

When I was invited to join the Critical Landscapes team of "TePI – Theater and the indigenous peoples" I saw myself trying to scrutinize the idea of an indigenous theater or performed by indigenous peoples, but when I observed the first programs being offered by the platform, I realized that I should start from the beginning. This is because the creation of TePI Digital Platform aims to get together in a single place the making of the indigenous people's performances, without trying to give them the tone of artistic canon or framing these acts in some of the performing trends we came to know while attending the Performing Arts courses.

The programming, mostly the Art Showcase, keeps its dynamics with Theater Shows and Performances ruled by the rhythm and knowledge of the groups performing them. *Trewa* (Chile), *Ino Moxo* (Peru) and Lithipokoroda (Brasil) bring specific narratives from their villages, which, luckly, are shared through what can be called "online social life", characterized by this experience in which we are connected to the virtual universe.

However, the point I feel like disclosing is not necessarily related to the production issues, but to what goes on at TePI backstage in the virtual environment. To build a platform to get together so many experiences seems a right and interesting move, as we connect with the deep talks of its organizers and guests right away, but also with the activities at Art Showcase, with professionals who are miles away from us and, above all, taking up one more space for reflection and fruition.

Nevertheless, we should not expect that the machine would be in charge of connecting us with the universe TePI is willing to offer. It won't give us the answers if we don't look for them. Though I'm not an expert in IT issues, I assume that a good push can help (or would help) opening up this land, so-called democratic, which is the world wide web. I mean that one's got to take the initiative of exploring, of sharing, of the information flow and the "virtual word of mouth" at WhatsApp, at least in the first instance, to bring this whole universe to our side and, thus, getting to unreachable places which would hardly be accessible in-person – and reaching, mainly, those people who are not connected with the indigenous issues.

Even though it looks like a democratic and accessible place to everyone, the virtual universe still keeps an unequal representation regarding the occupation of spaces and content offerings which would bring visibility to the makings – body rhythm which would pulse in the most distant places of a possible viewer. This is because we know how difficult it is to keep ourselves connected as to produce massive content, not to mention the lack of critical knowledge about this environment and, technically speaking, about the codes and algorithms that we could operate in favor of initiatives like this.

The Platform, above mentioned, is a demonstration of the potentiality the insertion of indigenous bodies in the virtual universe would bring, aiming the promotion of a place for debating and the connection between all the representations mediated by this event.

All said, we reach the full stop: let us be smeared with the possibility of encouraging the production of an indigenous net which might cross geographical boundaries. Firstly, let's go for the first visit, the first search, the first sharing of all this history TePiI is building. Consuming indigenous art is, above all, keeping a politics of resistance. Let the algorithms fill in your screens with indigenous life. Let the platforms, news, agents, indigenous lives get into your universe. Tie your net and feel the rhythm of this new moment as TePI Digital Platform is here!

TePI - Teatro e os Povos Indígenas
Plataforma digital | 2021
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