

Dr hab. Aleksandra

She earned habilitation in 2013 at the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw and is the youngest holder of a *doktor habilitowany* degree in the field of eurhythmics and dance in Poland. Originator of Warsaw Dance Theatre, director of Warsaw Dance Days, International Contemporary Dance Festival, co-author and co-organiser of the Warsaw Dance Platform 2014-2016, member of the Scientific Council at the Choreology Institute in Poznań, vice chair of the Polish Choreology Forum, co-founder and member of STREFA OTWARTA Association, member of the Committee for Dance at the Department of Culture of the Capital City of Warsaw.

Dziuroszy

DURATION OF THE SCIEX PROJECT:
1.10.2014-31.03.2015

PROJECT:
**Tradition Dance Theatre
Performance (TDTP)**

The Fryderyk
Chopin University
of Music

PL

CH

Zurich University
of the Arts



What was the objective of your project implemented as part of the SCIEX programme?

The project was a hybrid – it combined research work and artistic performance – aiming to find an answer to the question whether tradition is obsolete today and whether or not its universal significance can be restored. This was the first project of the kind both for Warsaw and for the Swiss universities (Zurich University of Arts). It required a whole new research team to deal with investigating and comparing the traditions and customs of highlanders in both countries. Basing on that freshly acquired knowledge we prepared a performance – an artistic form of presenting our research results – we built the dramaturgy of its characters, wrote our script and some musical scores, and we designed the costumes. At a snap of the fingers we were transformed from a research group into a stage production team.

What were the outcomes of the project?

Roots – that was the title of the performance we created – seventy minutes of original musical scores, choreography, direction and costumes, and a libretto that can function as a whole or be presented in parts (solo performances). There is also an article that I am going to present at a conference in Warsaw in September 2015 and a DVD containing unique footage showing folk customs in

various Swiss cantons. There is also a soft outcome – I have learned a new way of thinking, better organisation of work and improved regularity. These skills can now be put to practice.

What impact did the fellowship have on your professional and private life?

During the six months in Switzerland I acquired new organisational skills. I have learnt how to establish rapport with others, how to build new things from scratch, I have learnt about a new dimension of marketing and PR. I have acquired funding for remuneration for dancers from the City of Zurich. The fellowship has been very beneficial for my professional life and has not interfered with my personal life (I left with my husband, who was a great support for me). I have established new contacts, communicated in a foreign language and discovered a new region.

If not for the fellowship...

...I would not have gained the knowledge and experience which I intend to use later on. This fellowship is a cocktail of skills and experiences which are bound to pay off – if not today, then in 20 years, if not in professional, then in private life.