

Ágnes Simor

**Simorág DanCircus,
a multi-artistic new
circus initiative
since 2010**

*Founder of the
company, director,
scriptwriter,
choreographer,
artist, responsible
for concepts and
visions*

Basic aim: each project has 1 to 2 years of cultural and background research, training and rehearsals. The process involves our own children and families. The company is a community of high level artists, sharing strong friendship and similar human values.

Since 2010 the Simorág DanCircus has been performing their own fairy tales mostly across Hungary but also abroad combining theatre, dance, poetry and circus. The company has many professional awards. Personally Ágnes Simor was honoured for cultural innovation and work against discrimination by the Cultural Ministry, and the Capital City Budapest. Performing fairy tales at the most disadvantaged villages in Hungary is one of her basic aims.



They play seven Fairy tales, all their own, combining dance-circus-theatre-live music and fine art scenery.

Approximately 50 performances yearly, 10 company members / acrobat-actors, musicians, technicians/

Many invitations to theatres and festivals.

Self-support grants. writing process for all social issues

by Ágnes Simor



Tükörmese
LIFEWORKS



Mirror-Tale

- Eco-conscious thinking
- Educative ideas through art
- A 6 meter long hand-knitted scenery made from recycled material - A strong eco-reflection
- Focusing on questions of humanity.
- Hand knitted costumes and props

The fairy and the giant live in the same neighbourhood without knowing one another, they help a man, who doesn't see their mythical world and lost his connections with nature. Finding the way back to nature and mythical worlds.

Magic Tale

Award winner : The main award of the Year of Comedy theatre competition



Little Devils Tale

“In their imaginative worlds, the sets and characters are constantly changing, as anyone can become anything in fairy tales. They work with new stories, their symbol systems are easy to interpret. Humour and lyricism play an important role in their productions.”
/Emőke Sárosi,
theatre esthete/



The Flock Project

*Award winner: 2015:
Tamás Cseh's music
choreography award
for vertical dance
performance*



A unique Vertical dance Company in Hungary /member of the International Vertical dance network/ 8 company members and 3 music groups involved

Turning the world upside down, vertical dance is making the illusion that the performance takes place on a stage turned 90 degrees.

The group is whistling over the heads of the spectators. Flying - twirling - spinning. Our vertical dances tell stories on walls of buildings and, castles or even glass walls. These are symbolic dances in the air. Breakout somersaults over people's heads!

All the vertical dance performances connect literature, visual art and live music.

Performed in several scenes in Hungary, shows in Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Poland. The opening performance of the Side Specific ones in the Quadriennale of Prague in 2019. Eco Flight one of our basic aims is to perform in nature- using recycled, hand-made dresses. With trash collecting local social actions „Flutter, quiver, flicker, hover, / My nesting counterpart and kin, /Be there still the ground beneath our feet?/Be there still the sky beneath our wings?”



Solidarity Projects

Award winner: 2010:
Pro Urbe - a Major
Award of Capital City
Budapest for the work
against discrimination



Agnes Simor began developing solidarity projects during her University studies. She created the Art Against Discrimination campaigns with the involvement of 40 countries and several artists from all fields of art between 2008-2011

At 2011 the cultural centre Tűzraktér, she was then leading, was offered to develop into an independent international Human Rights and Art Center. As a reply the centre was closed by the local government. The closure process took 5 months, due to the squatting and protest of 2000 artists.

The legal procedure with the Local Government lasted 4 years with the Pro Bono help of an international lawyer company.

- Against violence and abuse of women : as an artist Ágnes Simor was one of the choreographers of such events as One Billion Rising /Madrid/

- Against the violence of children /Holocaust Remembrance/ as an artist Ágnes Simor was one of the choreographers of the event at the Great Synagogue of Budapest

- Since 2011 she has been a member of the Board of Trustees in The last Sephardic Jewish praying house /Teleki/ implementing Holocaust survivor documentary films. Award winner projects, conferences, art projects



Circus pedagogy

Since her drama pedagogy studies she has been interested in connecting it with movement theatre techniques. After learning social circus in 2012 she combined drama pedagogy and creative dance with circus pedagogy.

The basic aims:

- to show we can pass our limits -to understand ourselves better and to connect to others through body-knowledge and self-awareness
- to improve coordination, meditation and concentration in general



On the border

Ágnes Simor was committed during the migration crisis /From 2015/ working with sociologists, NGO-s and Migration Aid, creating new circus projects and conferences: „Stay or Go”. In 2022 she created the Travelling artist for Ukrainian kids action

Basic aims: helping refugee children and families who were stuck in small border settlements, crowded into community centres and gymnasiums. Ágnes organised the process, the Simorág DanCircus travelled to the borders with non-verbal performances and circus pedagogy for Ukrainian kids in Hungary.

Organising donation and logistics to the borders. The children, trapped for long periods of time, were in desperate need of creative activities to keep them occupied.

Due to the project other artists, sponsors and official grantmakers became involved.



Detectivity Creative Educational Center



Simorág Theater investigations:

- A new initiative in Hungary for more than 10 years, connecting drama pedagogy, circus pedagogy interactive problem solving detective games
- Coherent stories based on background research with Academic institutes and NGO experts
- Educational detective games, social reflections involving vulnerable groups
- Detectivity summer camps for 8 years - creative games and teaching kids to create their own games based on Ágnes Simor's applied drama pedagogy methods. 15 educated drama teachers involved.

Detectivity

- Autonomia Foundation-cooperational Methodology for social detective games
- 20 developed educational games, 1500-2500 children/youth reached per year , mostly gratis occasions through the grant writing efforts of Ágnes Simor
- 2 Erasmus project partnerships, 10 international NGO-s involved, developed international educational social detective games



Literature, intercultural dialogue - multi artistic ways

Poetry is very personal for me. Self-reflexion, self-criticism, irony, a harsh mirror

Though I was discovered and published as a poet in literature magazines since the age of 17, I came out with my own book of poems only at the age of 27. Till that time only my literature translations were published in anthologies and I edited a multi-language international anthology through the

Art Against Discrimination campaign in 2010. Since the birth of my daughter /2006/ I haven't published any new poems, though literature has always been part of my work.

Special literature class

When my daughter became a teenager, we had many conversations and I needed to understand more about her and myself. As a result I decided to create a literature event based on my poems. I created a multi-art event,

involved a co-director-actor and a Moroccan musician, involved their connection to literature. The educational performance is my own story through dance, poems, music and story-telling about my teenhood and how I became an adult. The self-

reflection is about teenhood for teenagers with free discussions after the event between the artists and youth. 150 students were reached and the project was invited to festivals.



Cultural management and organising festivals



By the time I was 25 I had been running a 10.000 square meter international multi-art centre in Budapest with a group of youth from all fields of art and other experts. We created a place to fill the gap after background research of needs. I self learned international grant writing, financial management, learned technical requirements and

organising structures and connecting different fields of art. I've got several awards and was asked to teach international grant writing and network building to the artist community in the next years. Due mafia-like system of Hungary after the first year we had to move to another place and I self-studied about risk management.

In the next decade I never wanted to direct a venue, I'd better work on organising international events, festivals, networking systems for grass-root organisations. Now I like directing small, but high level art festivals, where community building, connecting generations and eco-thoughts can meet.



Cserje Fest /Organizing a Theater Memorial Festival for the memory of the theatre director Zsuzsa Cserje who passed away/ with great artists and organiser colleague in the backstage

Personal story

Branch Story seems linear, but it connects different eras. Fragments of memories. It links different spaces. This story is in fact an autobiographical one. It

evokes the beauty of fairy tales for children, while for youth and adults it is a story of contemporary development, with a questioning approach.

Do development-teaching stories still exist today? Do we have to focus on personal improvement, or should we rather talk about community life? Can we think about the person as part of the community then?



Children after the performance are writing and drawing their own stories for me to keep and bring them to other children.

www.simorag.hu

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