



ABOUT THE COMPANY

BE COMPANY is an independent organisation of contemporary dance art. Two socially active and determined choreographers, Agniete Lisickinaite and Greta Grineviciute, are willing to defend their beliefs, freedoms, and the rights of social minorities. The artists seek to create a cohesive dialogue between the performing arts and social activities as well as to expand the boundaries of diversity and self-expression in Lithuania. For these reasons, they regularly collaborate on different artistic and socio-cultural projects with the LGBT+ community, national minorities, different age groups, and more. Frequently the reality of their work approaches phantasmagoria which uses the synergy of various media.

BE COMPANY's main project and very well-known creation in Lithuania is fictional characters called B&B. The characters were born in the summer of 2015 in Cork, Ireland, during the BLANK CANVAS residency which after some time helped to inspire the contemporary dance performance "B&B Dialogue". Eventually, these characters matured and established themselves as a completely independent unit (not always relying on its creators).



Agniete Lisickinaite & Greta Grineviciute

Currently, the dance duo travels the world and tries to convey the surrounding environment in as many different ways as possible: from political issues to consumerism dilemmas. Characters become mirrors of society and their interpretations become reflections. This process is often reminiscent of self-reflexive journalism which examines the observer's relationship with oneself. The characters, B and B, can be recognized for their captivating style, however, all the actions, embodiments and personifications are an actual depiction of the today's world around them.

TEAM

Content Creators & Dance Artists:

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THE AIM

The project “ALL IN” will seek to improve the social infrastructure and access to cultural activities for troubled youth through contemporary theatre and dance (i. e. performance art).

PROJECT IS ALL INTO YOUTH

The chosen vulnerable group of the project can be the **youth community** in your selected region which needs to be diverse and multicultural for many socioeconomic and historical reasons. The project seeks to focus on including the participants who are in the age bracket of 14–19 year-old. This age span is not chosen randomly as the development stage of mental health for adolescents is crucial to their own psychology, lifestyle and to shaping their and our own future. According to World Health Organisation, these are the key factors which determine mental health issues for youngsters:

- lack of empathy from families;
- lack of after-school, educational activities;
- desire for a greater autonomy;
- peer pressure and unrealised dreams;
- fear of one's own sexual identity;
- feeling of abandonment by society for discriminative reasons.

Two facilitators, Agniete and Greta, who are contemporary dance artists and choreographers will work to engage young people to “shine” in their own communities. The main objective for the facilitators will be to draw attention to societal issues regarding mental health, lifestyle and upbringing. This will be part of the fieldwork that will help to collect data about the different youth communities in Naples that will later be used as a part of the performance (or chosen contemporary art form suitable for participants and restrictions for COVID-19 pandemic).

CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC VALUE

ALL INN is a community-based project which takes a methodological approach from Applied Theatre and incorporates it into different contemporary artistic works through dance. Participants of this artistic project are not only assigned the role of performers – they are both a creative instrument and the object of research. The main aspect of the ALL INN project is that it does not only focus on a minor group of people but it brings along other community members through research practices. **Participants will be encouraged to make stories about their life and surroundings:** gathering young people from different cultural backgrounds to work on the same creative goal – to support one another through dance art and its therapeutic methods. Since the project focuses on workshops in dance, theatre and art, it will have participatory activities that will allow the youth to gain more awareness about decision-making processes, citizenship rights, duties and one's well-being. In result, the project hopes to achieve the sense of sharing responsibilities as a team and as an individual for the benefit of democracy and society through self-expression.

In addition, our organisation BE COMPANY has worked with elders and the young in Ireland, USA, Latvia and Lithuania. There Agniete and Greta took an opportunity to implement contemporary artistic approaches into diverse communities. Thus, by observing the regions and working abroad, we can state that there are a lot of similarities: distance between communities, stereotypes, ageism and decentralisation of communities. We have set the goal of supporting residents of other nations and integrating them into the society by the help of contemporary dance and theatre.

This project aims to develop closer mutual relations between residents by creating a cooperative and professional art piece as a way to identify crucial problems in the youth communities.



VERA

66 years-old.
Retired.

IT technician

Always lived in
the same district

ALL INN implemented in Lithuania (2020),
funded by the British Council

In both urban and rural communities, the influence of contemporary art is felt in social, economic and cultural fields. Art opens the door to communication with each other and gives the community a sense of well-being and adaptability. This gives the community a positive mindset and a greater willingness to engage in various societal and democratic activities.