

Language project 2019 - Behind the scenes



Wait I'm almost done...



...one second...



...finished!

It has become a tradition that the classes 11 and 12 come together and produce acts where they get judged by performance and creativity. The show has always been a big thing for the students as well as for their families and friends, that were watching their loved ones on the stage. Every year the whole project takes about four weeks and it is always such a funny but also hard time to go through. You probably have already heard a lot about that project, so I will not explain each of its details again. No, what I am up to now has got another purpose:

But first; May I use "you" to address you? (If yes) Okay, that's cool! Now we have got a connection, and I trust you, because the following ones are very secret features of the language project. Not everyone is allowed to gain that knowledge, but I believe I am able to trust in you.

You, the person who is reading this right now, has probably been an excited spectator of that language presentment once or just has heard about it or maybe not even that.

Whether you know exactly what I'm talking about or not, in the following passages you will have a lot more clue what I'm up to explain to you...

I would like to ask you: Have you ever wondered what it takes the actors and producers and all the people behind, to come up with those outstanding ideas to produce such a highlight every year?

When you are sitting in the audience as a spectator the only thing you see is what happens on stage, but what's behind there?

Why do you never see them being stressed in front of you? (Except it's a part of their acts)

So, let's start from the very beginning:

We always get the four weeks of preparation. In those four weeks the pupils go through different phases. Or as I call it: *"The four steps of a masterpiece"*.

Step one Say hello!

On the first day of the project we get separated into the groups that will now last for the next couple weeks. The teachers have already chosen the groups and made up their minds, so there is no changing between the teams afterwards. Normally everyone agrees with the teachers' decision. (Or is just too afraid to doubt their choices :D)



To my mind Day 1 is the most unproductive day of them all, because honestly you do nothing, except talking and getting to know one another.

Half of your team consists of people you have only seen when you were walking through the school corridors or you've seen them on the toilet while washing hands or in the cafeteria, for example, but you have never really talked to them. (Of course, except of your classmates, the other half of the group you spend like 7 hours a day with)

But how can you work with someone you have never talked to before? So, the first thing everyone is doing automatically is to get to know one another. How is the other persons' mind structured? What are her/ his benefits, strengths, believes, what is (s)he not so good at?

With all these questions remaining in your mind you will see particular sides of your new mates. And most of them will reveal in that one day. It is fascinating.

That Step 1 maybe lasts for one week, some groups may take longer, some will take less time. That depends on the openness of the team members.

Step two Make a plan!

The next step, just as important as step one, is to make an own, individual plan.

Every year we have to create an own theatre play that also means the teachers want to see a script written by ourselves. For that we usually get two weeks as the projects starts. So, it is very important to divide the different tasks among the team members to work efficiently.

Those two weeks are fulfilled with a lot of creativity, dedication and will-power. In those weeks the acts just arise from various ideas and strange suggestions. Always having the aim of producing acts in the context of the theme of the project in mind. Every year it is a different one, so that means the pupils have got the chance to produce something extraordinary every year.

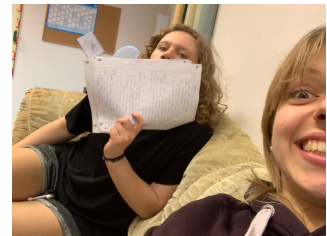
If you once get a rough plan, the rest will follow. It often in almost every case happens that you don't get your tasks done you planned it. But, that is okay, you know. You will learn that in the end everything works out the way it is supposed to and that you don't have to stress about anything that much.

But you always get this state of mind just after you have done such a project.

So, let me tell you: It is okay not to have an explicit plan. Just make sure you execute your tasks in time and don't hand over your scripts one week after the final date. That would not just be fair to the others.

Step three Oh, what a great time it is – be thankful!

After your creative phase there a time will come, when you practise your acts. That is going to be the best time of the project. You learn a lot: how to talk in a different language, how to pronounce certain words you have never heard of before, you learn how to act with your body and how to move to create a specific effect. Overall you can work with your mates together: the conversations are filled with engagement, the jokes are hilarious and everyone just wants to do one's best.



When the script is finished finally



Besides that it is also, as I said before, a hard time to go through. Because of the fact that everyone wants to do one's best, it can be difficult to put up with the "pressure".



The teachers know what we are capable of and so they expect a certain standard automatically. And that's totally fine. But it must be said that they are also there for us and support us, if we need any help or have got questions. They put us back on the right track if we have lost sight of what our responsibilities are.



Especially if you have been selected as one of the moderators, you have to talk to the teachers almost every day because there is such a lot to talk about. But it is not just that; you are also going to have a lot of conversations with all of the groups. You communicate with so many people and that definitely trains your communication skills and gets them on a higher level for sure. Whether you are shy or not you have to come out of yourself and be open to new ideas.



Being open-minded is important: If you are narrow – minded, working with you will reveal as exhausting, stressing and

ridiculous. So, don't be that way. Open your mind and try to face your difficulties with pleasantness. I know this seems to be impossible at first sight but if you stay focused you will reach your aim. Never back down from extraordinary thoughts and thinking, embrace the weirdness and let me tell you: The time will come, when you are annoyed by everything and struggling. You can cry and scream if you need to but you should not give up. If you need a cool-off then get it. When you are calm, carry on. The rehearsals are one of the best experiences. You try again, and again and again until everybody knows what to do when and where exactly. It takes some time and it can be frustrating, but it will be worth it. Believe me, it will be worth your time.





And if you need to rest, then rest.
Preferably in your own bed. :D

That is how you handle it, the third step to make yourself create your own masterpiece. Appreciate the cheerful time with your friends and be happy and thankful for working with them together.



Step four Behind stage there must be silence!

After hours and hours and weeks of preparation, the final performance begins: Everybody is excited and everyone knows about the importance of such a live-project. We are all – or most of us I hope – well-prepared and ready for our performances. Everything has been done and the show can begin! “Raising the curtain” ***tamtamtaaaaam***

It all starts nicely and the scenes go on properly, but wait – what is that? One thing is missing? Have I put it right behind that chair or have I given it to someone else? I don't even remember what I had for breakfast, so how can I succeed in finding my missing requisite? That is a disaster! I think I just got a mental breakdown right now!!

In such a highly tensioned situation everyone freaks out from time to time. That is normal. If that happens to you once, remind yourself that you just need to breathe. Breathe the air in and then let it all out. Try to think about something really nice maybe strawberries with some ice-cream or maybe some good pizza? It helps. And then the show must go on.

After that procedure I will have found my missing requisite by the way.



The most important thing while you are part of a live performance is that behind the stage everything, even the smallest little noise, must be avoided. That noise just distracts the audience as well as the actors. The audience must believe that there is no one except of the performers on stage.

Behind there you help one another. You are responsible for the others. If you don't have a task you can look up for something useful you can do. But don't be in the way of others. Just look a bit ahead.

Before you step up the stairs to the stage make sure you stand properly, nice and firm. That makes a confident impression and people will like you for that.

Please do not think that there is not any fun behind the curtains. No – it is totally the opposite – we have got a lot of fun and it is hard not to laugh out loudly. All the time something unexpected happens – that always makes the evening unique.





But now, what is the ultimate secret? Some hidden advice that you have to follow when everything seems to go downhill?

The answer is – to have nice people around and to carry nice food (:D), always and everywhere you go when you work at such a project.

Honestly, it takes a lot of endurance and mental strength. You have to be able to work out your best and don't let your weak thoughts control your mind. You always have to be sure about what you are doing.

Well, maybe that sounds a bit too serious. What I am talking about is, that your aim should be a nice and watchable presentation.

The support of your friends and classmates is necessary to organize and to run that project and to create unforgettable experiences and finally achieve your own individual masterpiece!

