

STREGONI



Stregoni
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Location

Trento, Trentino Alto Adige Sudtirolo

Country

Italy

Short summarizing description

How much do we know about the stories and the music that migrants bring to our cities? Stregoni (Sorcerers) is an attempt to understand, through the language of sound, what is going on within and outside of the borders of a continent that is experiencing the worst political crisis since the creation of the Union. It's a true live music experiment that, through a series of shows-workshops in both reception centers and clubs, tries to tell what happens every day not at sea, not on the edges of deserts, but at the core of our cities. Johnny Mox and Above The Tree take the music that refugees and asylum seekers listen to and have on their smartphones to create real time loops, sonic fragments on which to build original compositions. Cell phones are the main narrative tool in the Stregoni project and in these digital nomad travels. Smartphones music is the starting point of the Stregoni journey. A soundtrack that aims to collect the voices and the sounds of the newcomers

Key Terms

Refugees, Music, Smartphones

Context and background, Which problems/challenges does your measure try to solve/cope with?

We have now played with more than 2500 musicians, all of them asylum seekers. These people live in a time bubble, a state of suspension, and it's quite frustrating for them. Our musical encounters on stage can be hardly described. There are moments when you feel things are really working, that something great and magic is happening. At other times, instead, it's quite awkward, the sound limps, rhythms fall apart and the stage becomes a huge, desolate place. But finally, music arrives and takes us away. Showing the difficulties, the error, has a deeper meaning in this ultra-editable-

photoshop era. Meeting new people requires time and efforts: as in real life, as in any relationship, it takes time to get to know each other, to study, to sniff who is sitting next to you

Which are the key objectives of your measure?

Integration, mutual knowledge, dignity, breaking social and musical boundaries, defeating „poverty-porn“

Who are the main target groups and beneficiaries of your measure?

Refugees, european citizen, public opinion, muscians& artists

Which actions have already been implemented and which results have been achieved so far?

With Stregoni we did not want to have a stable band: we wanted to enlarge and destroy the common notion of “musical group”. In each city, we play with different musicians from different background and different countries – above all, with a different sound. It’s not a musical jamsession, it’s improvisation with human beings. This makes each gig such a unique event. We played with more than 2500 people held in immigrant identification and asylum seeker centres scattered all over Europe – from Italy the project has then been extended to Paris, Bruxelles, Amsterdam, Hamburg, Copenhagen and Malmö. In march 2017 a short doc about Stregoni was published on VICE MAGAZINE <https://noisey.vice.com/it/article/3dxqev/stregoni-intervista-johnny-mox-above-the-tree-documentario> The entire project will also become a FILM DOCUMENTARY (already shot and in production)

Which were the main problems and challenges you were/are facing when implementing the project and how did/do you (try to) overcome them?

The single most fearful enemy is neither fascist groups nor Catholic ultraconservatives. It is nostalgia. Overqualified and underemployed European millenials are a nostalgic generation; in parallel, many young refugees from African and Asia are easy prey to a different but no less deadly type of nostalgia. Nostalgia strips you of the present and the future. It’s only functional to marketing and politics. It distorts reality and destroys meetingness. The only nostalgia we have to learn, is a nostalgia for the future. The desire to make and experiment together, despite all the failures.

Link to website

<https://www.facebook.com/stregoniband/>

Starting date

2016-01-06

Duration

24 - still going

Regional scale

5 - trans-national

Other involved partners

Above the Tree

Contact person

Johnny Mox

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Category 1, Managing social change

Music is the most powerful language: interacting with so many different people is a great chance to get a deeper sight in what's going on in Europe and yet a very important opportunity for redemption and dignity for all the newcomers. Stregoni it's a bet on future. It's about putting people in a position to make their contribution.

Category 2: Integrating migrants into the local/,regional labour market

The next step: we would like Stregoni to walk with their own legs and create chances for other refugees / musicians. It's not necessary that Johnny Mox and Above the Tree are part of the band any longer. There are already several Sorcerers bands around Europe. They could play simultaneously in different places. New paths, and who knows maybe also new careers, could begin here. Finally, what we have done with music could be attempted in many other fields – education etc. So, we could have one overqualified precarious teacher for every ten immigrants, for them to get a fast and effective training. You don't need a "sorcerer" to predict that the denial of opportunities and encounters will only produce disastrous outcomes.

Stregoni Info

Corriere della Sera 22 ottobre 2017