



# **ILand RESOURCE PACK**

*Performed and created by Studio 18  
Co-produced by ŽiguŽajg and Valletta 2018*

Promenade theatre for ages 12+

## **What is the performance about?**

Will I see you there? Will you see me? What do you think.. of me? What do I think?  
An underground meet-up. A social bubble. A teenage maze.

*iLand* is a site specific piece of work devised by young people for young people exploring what it means to be a teenager in Malta in 2018. This promenade performance takes audiences to the place where it all happens, offering an intimate experience and the closest of encounters with the world of local teens.

## **Getting in the Zone**

You are a teenager in Malta in the 1940s, the 1990s, and 2050s - how would life be different? Think of all of one's aspects of life - food, entertainment, communication, fashion, work, expectations from adults, economy, world events.

## **Who am I?**

Throughout this phase in our life, we experience very important changes which involve the further development of our self-concept as we grow and cultivate new attachments. Whereas as children we were most probably strongly attached to our parents, our important attachments will now start to move increasingly towards our friends. This might not be an easy stage as we search for a unique identity, and the ability to answer the question, “**Who am I?**”

In this journey of self-exploration, you may experience what we call ‘**role confusion**’ in which you will balance or choose among identities, perhaps take on undesirable identities, or even temporarily give up looking for an identity. So, you may feel the need to try out different identities in different social situations - Perhaps you will maintain one identity at home and a different one when with peers - until eventually, you develop a comfortable sense of identity. This is why friendship groups at this stage are a crucial part of your experience: as they give you an opportunity to try out different identities, and provide you with a sense of belonging and acceptance. Throughout this very important stage, you will learn a great deal about social identity; this is the part of your self-concept that is formed by group memberships, and you may therefore find meaning in sports, religion, studies, politics, gender, or the ethnic group you belong to. This is indeed a very important stage in your life through which you will take a great leap in self-discovery. Hang in there!

## **How did we create iLand?**

Devising a piece of theatre is the least straightforward task one could hope for. Imagine making a piece of clothing from scratch. First you need to learn how to sew - learn about the various types of stitching - learn how to make different items of clothing - AND learn how to be creative in your design.

Next, you have to choose what you want to make - now that you've learnt about all the different ways you can make, let's say, a t-shirt... you're brimming with ideas about how to make this t-shirt and once you start making it, you know that you made it all yourself from start to finish. Yes, imagine doing that, with a group of people who equally love making t-shirts, so you can share all your ideas and make one awesome t-shirt!

We began work on our iLand story 18 months before the performance. We started learning about different theatre styles, methods and techniques. We assembled a team, auditioned a cast and set to work- you could say we experienced four phases:

**Phase 1:** We learnt how to be creative and share ideas with each other and let our creativity flow in order to develop ideas. Two of our cast members, Ben and Brendon, took on the role of assistants in order to make sure ideas were communicated between the cast and the creatives. We worked for 8 months from Malta whilst corresponding with UK director Paul Edwards via Skype, emails, photos and videos.

**Phase 2:** In May, Paul joined the team here in Malta, where we spent three days structuring our material; at this point, we said goodbye to many of the previous concepts and generated new ones because our voice and message had become much clearer. Paul shared his knowledge and his Greek-British roots with us and us while we helped him become familiar with Maltese culture.

**Phase 3:** Over the Summer, we then worked on our 't-shirt design' - where we came up with a final concept, bearing in mind the space and how this would affect the narrative we create. Our director, together with Ben and Brendon, also visited London for a week in order to work closely with Paul. Finally, we began to generate a script and to develop the final idea with the creative team in order to fit together the final puzzle.

**Phase 4:** In the run-up to our performance, we then began to concretise the narrative we had decided upon: piecing it together, refining language, honouring the message we wished to convey, securing transitions and peppering the piece with all the elements required (lights, sound, music, set, costume, effects) to create what we now know as our iLand: 18 months in the making and constantly evolving.

## **Themes**

## What are we ACTUALLY talking about?

- Identity
- Growing Up
- Culture
- Social Media
- Technology
- Being Different
- Indifference
- Social Influence
- Anxiety
- Stability and Change

## Activity

**Help us to create a manual of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) manual about 'How to be a teenager in 21st Century Malta'**

You are approached by the International Teenage-Behaviour Association Conglomerate Corporation, to create a user manual about 'How to be a teenager in 21st Century Malta'.

To make it as user-friendly as possible, you may want to create it using a series of FAQs. (e.g. How many hours a day should one spend on Instagram?)

As a class, design a list and send it over to us at [info@studio18malta.com](mailto:info@studio18malta.com), and we will publish it on our social media and deliver it to the TBACC!