Vissi d’Arte – work as calling and passion

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TTITE
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Introduction

Hanna Fontana, HR Manager, Finnish National Opera and Ballet (1998-), Master of Music (Sibelius Academy) 1992 PhD student, MuTri, University of the Arts, Helsinki, 2019-

Long working career as HR Manager, Lecturer and Conflict Mediator, Coordinator of Opera Europa HR Forum

Idea of a PhD path has grown gradually

Possibility of utilize knowledge and experience, as well as international networks, being an insider in the core business
Vissi d’Arte

- Work as Passion and Calling?
- Title from Tosca by Puccini – *I have lived for the art*
- Curiosity and need to understand the processes and phenomena in the work of a performing artist
- Career paths, rewarding moments, challenging situations, meaningful and consuming work, relationship to the stage and roles, passion, commitment, engagement

What kind of stories do performing artists tell about their work and life?
Focus on performing artists

- Opera Singers (soloists, chorus singers)
- Ballet dancers (soloists, principals, corps de ballet)
- Need for a wider perspective due to my daily work as HR Manager
- Six different organisations:
  - Finnish National Opera and Ballet, Helsinki
  - Royal Swedish Opera, Stockholm
  - Norwegian Opera, Oslo
  - Royal Danish Opera, Copenhagen
  - La Monnaie, Brussels
  - Royal Opera House, London

Calling?

A consuming, meaningful passion people experience toward a domain

Dobrow & Tosti-Charas 2011
Passion?

Dualistic model of Passion: obsessive or harmonious
(Robert Vallerand)

Material

Interviews 25 persons
- 8 questions regarding career paths, creativity, rewarding moments, challenges, stage work, visions

A possible second round (5-8 persons)
- Comments on the first interview, new stories
Interview questions

- Can you tell me the story how you became a dancer / a singer?
- Has there ever been moments where you would have wanted to make another work / profession?
- How would you describe your work as a dancer / a singer?
- Do you experience creativity in your work?
- Can you tell me about some rewarding moments in your work?
- Can you tell me about some challenging moments in your work?
- How do you feel on the stage? What happens to you on the stage?
- What is your relationship with the roles you dance or sing?
- How do you feel in relation to other dancers / singers, is there a sense belonging to a larger community?
- Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Current situation

- Narrative research course done, Work and Organization Psychology studies in process
- Interviews in process (10/25 done), hope to continue in the Autumn
- Challenges for myself: Insider – how to keep the mind and eyes open and let surprises to happen
- Positive experiences: Interviews have been inspiring and relaxed – no “wannabe” presentations, instead very honest stories
Narrative question?

Interviewer’s role: active or neutral?

Thank you!
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