

Teaching Art



Erasmus +



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POLAND



MIROSLAW TRYMBULAK



Source: www.ateliersmaku.pl

Surprisingly, in the beginning, Mirosław Trymbulak actually wanted to become a surgeon. He only changed that plan at the age of twelve, after watching a TV series “Powrót do Edenu” and realizing that his real passion lay in designing clothes, because as he said, he just thought that cutting and sewing clothes, not people, would be a way more interesting path to take in life.



Source: www.ateliersmaku.pl

Already having decided on a career path for himself, receiving little support from his aunt and a lot from his dad he pushed onward throughout high school, managing to wiggle his way into the fashion industry by working part time as a model. During those fashion shows, he slowly gained the necessary knowledge of organizing such events, designing and, most importantly, he met people that would become valuable friends and contacts for him later on.

At the end of high school, for his thesis he chose, fittingly, a fashion show. He made all the props, posters and Invitations solely by himself, as this part of the endeavor was meant to showcase skills that he had learnt in the course of his time at the school, the rest of the show being models, photography, music, and clothing were made in collaboration with other artists and his friends from the industry.

During that show and many others after it, he had always kept to his principles, which were, teamwork and letting every artist he worked with express themselves whilst working towards a concise, clear vision. This, amongst other things, was what made his later projects successful. So successful in fact that he got invited to showcase his thesis clothing designs on a big event in Warsaw, which, in turn garnered him some media attention.

After that, life went really fast for him, he no longer felt the need for higher education, and instead focused his efforts on other ventures. Together with his girlfriend Jola they created a gallery/cafe in his parents old garage, made media appearances, hosted fashion shows and, after some amount of time slowly but surely began wanting something new. It was a moment of changes, one of them came in the form of a new diet, they've gone vegetarian, with that, the cafe now became a vegetarian restaurant. It proved to be difficult to maintain, but after it closed it left a legacy of two recipe books and a TV show. It was the first vegetarian cooking show on air in Poland. And recently their brand "Atelier Smaku" has also evolved to have a youtube channel and its own Bistro.

Mirosław has truly had an amazingly fast and full career. His story shows the importance of friendships, resourcefulness and teamwork in achieving our goals. He is truly a remarkable guy and I think we all could learn something from him, even if only to never stop striving for new experiences in life.



Source: www.ateliersmaku.pl

ULA BRUNO



Source: Ula Bruno's private collection.

Ula Bruno visited our school to participate in the interview on the 22 of March 2022. Two of our students from Erasmus + group were prepared to ask some questions while recording. We had an audience made of third graders. Before the official interview started, our students had a chance to ask her questions. Ula is a really positive and open person, we are so glad to tell you more about her.

Ula graduated from High School of Fine Arts in 2011. She remembers a casual atmosphere at our school. After that, she went to study at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw

to continue learning. Ula attended graphics class. What's interesting, at first, she wanted to become a book illustrator. But this wasn't enough for her! Ula started to work with animation 2D. She always wanted to show a story through art. Animation is the best way to do it. You can create the whole new world. Nothing can hold you back.

But each coin has two sides. Ula told us about less exciting parts of her job. Stop-motion animation takes a lot of time. She spends a lot of time in front of the computer screen without any company. However, the effort is worth it! At the beginning of her career, she worked in the animation company, “Smaczego”. This work reminded her of good times when she was attending our school! Ula worked there for 9 months and then she quit to start her own business.

When our friends asked Ula about the artist that inspired her in this path, she said that her biggest authority is the late Kazimierz Urbański. His way of creating and observation is used by Ula in her work. It is really amazing how someone can carry the values of another artist and become a part of them.



Source: Ula Bruno's private collection.

Motivation is really important in her job. Ula told us that she was the greatest motivation for herself! Despite this fact, she is looking for people with the same level of commitment when

she works with somebody. This makes everyone feel supported and ensures that nobody loses motivation.

We asked if she had any regrets and we were glad to hear she did not have any! She is happy with the way she has chosen. For future artists like us, it is really important to hear about success to gather motivation.

Beyond the main topic, which is art, Ula also works as a massage therapist. She told us that it was important to have additional work. She appreciates contact with another human and its pretty relaxing for her.

We all think that the interview with Ula inspired us to do what makes us happy!

ATTACHMENTS

1. English translation of the interview with Mirosław Trymbulak.

Maciej: Hello, my name is Maciej and I am pleased to have an opportunity to interview one of our school's graduates, Mr. Mirosław Trymbulak. Firstly, I would like to ask you to describe yourself and your artistic journey in a few words.

Mirosław: Fashion design, cooking, veganism and creativity.

Maciej: Okay, so the thing we have in common is that we both attended the High School of Fine Arts in Gdynia Orlowo at some point. Can you tell me why you picked this school?

Mirosław: I've always wanted for art to be present in my life, even though up until I was 12, I thought I was going to be a surgeon. Later on I've decided to focus on stitching clothes, not people. The art school was the closest to me, both distance- and passion-wise. There was also time when I wanted to attend gastronomy school, but my father talked me out of it. However, as you can see, gastronomy is still a huge part of my life. Me and my wife, who is also a designer, opened a vegan cafe which doubles as an art gallery and a sewing workshop.

Maciej: I think it's somewhat innovatory that you combine vegan cuisine, which is still kinda niche in Poland with the art of fashion design.

Mirosław: Yeah, but the market is still changing - veganism is becoming more and more popular, especially among the younger generation. When I was young, even being a vegetarian was considered weird, but now it has become some kind of a norm.

Maciej: Okay, next question - how did the art school affect your life, and how did it help you become who you are now?

Mirosław: I started attending fashion shows while still in high school, so I had an opportunity to gain some experience and meet some people in the business, and it definitely helped me along the way. I didn't get into my dream university in Łódź, but I already had three clothing collections and a lot of fashion shows on my account so it wasn't that hard for me to find a job without it.

Maciej: That's great. You've accomplished a lot of things, like your fashion show in Warsaw, writing a book or having your own TV show. How did you manage to achieve all of that?

Mirosław: I've joined forces with my wife, Jola Słoma and we've approached it step by step, with a lot of persistence. We both work on our personal projects, but we also sew clothes for individual clients. We also have an atelier in Warsaw, we sell food-related stuff and we have a YouTube channel, so it's a lot of work

Maciej: I see it's an extensive business, isn't it problematic sometimes?

Mirosław: I mean, the problems appear every time you start working with new people - you have to know how to collaborate with them and to get along with them overall. You also need to be open-minded and know how to introduce your own ideas without them feeling hurt or belittled. Also, when it comes to living with my wife as we are both artists, there are often some disagreements, but you always have to remember that you're on the same team.

Maciej: Great. And what next? Do you have any plans for the future?

Mirosław: I'm working on a new collection which is going to be inspired by Venetian culture, so I plan to travel there a lot. Of course a lot of things are uncertain now with COVID, but I hope I'm going to be able to fulfill this goal.

Maciej: You seem to have an amazing, colorful life with a lot going on in it. Thank you very much for agreeing to this interview and we hope we will be hearing a lot more about you.

Mirosław: Thank you very much, It was really nice to meet you. I'm glad we attended the same school and I also hope I'll be hearing about you soon.

BULGARIA





**INTERVIEW WITH ANNA GUNOVA
AND MONICA MIBORD**



(Anna Gunova – holer of studio for drawing 'Lilavo')

1. Hello! How are you?

Hi. I am good, thank you, and you?

2. Tell us a few words about yourself?

Ani: I am Ani. I was born in Plovdiv, grew up in Assenovgrad and painting is pretty much of my life.

Monica: I am Monica. I am born in Plovdiv and I started drawing since 6th grade and since then I decided that this is what I want to do.

3. Why did you choose an art school?

Ani: There was no other option for me. I remember I told my mom “Pray for me to get in!” because I am not going to start studying Mathematics or something like that.

Monica: Yes, pretty much the same. When I decided that I will be drawing every day and I had to choose the high school and I said “Wow, it is going to be the art school for me.”



(Anna in school with her diploma work)

4. What did you do after you graduated high school?

Ani: I started learning German. I decided to go to Germany, to Munich to get in their academy but when I got there I found people are very cold and boring. I was missing my people from the art school and all of my friends so I got back in Plovdiv and that's it.

Monica: I decided that I want to go to France and when I graduated I went to Paris to study fine arts and design.



(Anna in Academy with her diploma work)

5. So now how has graduating art school/academy helped you to achieve your goals?

Ani: All the knowledge that I have related to art I own to the art school and after that to the academy.

Monica: I think it is mainly the vision of the space, the colors, the textures, the way we appreciate all the creative ways of thinking because the more colorful we are now we see the things in a different way. I think for an artist this is good for everyday life.



6. How did the idea of this business come?

Ani: I have always wanted to have something mine, something like a small art shop but the idea for this particular business was actually not mine. It was one of my best friends' idea. She told me “You are so communicative. You have so many friends and people that like you. You should do something with art and people.”





7. How did you manage to accomplish it?

Ani: It was a lot of hard work. Not that much... I didn't put a lot of money into it but a lot of hard work. I remember when I got back from the States, I have lived there for 6 years, and right after that I decided to open the studio. I found this place and I painted the walls, I created all these frames and everything. I took part in everything that is done here.



8. What do you love most in your job?

Ani: Everything! That I meet new people, the work with the kids, everything is art here. I have the freedom to decide what to do – I am the boss.

Monica: You do what you love to do. There is no body to say “You should be there at five...” and you to be worried if it is not, whatever it is it is just freedom.



9. And what part of your job is most difficult?

Ani: Honestly – to earn money from it. Anything else is super easy for me. I am motivated every time to come here, to organize the studio. I love it even when I clean after a class. Maybe there is a hard part for Moni, I don't know.

Monica: Not really, yes mainly to live with that I mean to make it busy, to keep the business alive. Even in the pandemic, even when we had to close, that was probably the most difficult part when there are so many restrictions from the country and we had to be aware of all these

restrictions. That stress of how many people are allowed to be here, do they have to wear masks or not...

Ani: Yes, definitely, since the whole Covid situation started it got very hard. It was super easy the first month we were working because I opened the studio one month before the pandemic started.



10. Have you ever regretted doing what you do?

Ani: No, never, definitely not. Even when the pandemic started I never thought of giving up. Never.

Monica: I arrived here a few months after she opened the place. Thanks to one of my friends and her friend also...

Ani: He was a guy who from her class. I knew him. He worked with me during one summer. And when he told me he has to leave I was like "Oh no! No way!". But he said "Oh don't worry I will meet you with Moni, she is the best". And yes, she is the best.

Monica: It was so great to have that trust between us.

Ani: Especially when I got pregnant and gave birth she was do boss here.

...



11. Tell us a nice memory in your career?

Ani: There are so many. All the kids that have been here, all the other people, the adults, every time it is different and every time it is fun. I cannot think of a particular situation that is something special. Every time is special.

Monica: Maybe when someone comes back and say it was amazing, I will bring some new people. It is like from person to person and they come again. And you feel like you did a good job and you are happy so it is so good.

Ani: Every time when they decide to come second, third, fourth time it is a holiday for us.



12. Who is the person or visual artist who inspired you most?

Ani: This is a really hard question for me because I cannot tell you one name. I get inspired by many things, not one person. I get inspired by colors, moods, people, new things that I have in my life. It was one thing when I started it was another when the whole Covid situation started, it was another the summer after the first quarantine. And now I could tell I am inspired by my newborn. I am trying to be a good mom and also a good artist, but I really cannot tell a person who actually inspires me.

Monica: For me it is like one painter, one sculptor and then you go to the cinema when you go to see a movie and you have some new ideas. It could be the family, the friends, just a conversation. Every time it is different. It depends on what you need in this day.

Ani: Nowadays with all this social media there are so many artists out there. You get inspired by different artist and different painting not only one. If I have to be honest I get mostly inspired by this place and other places in my life. For example I honestly can tell that purple is not my favorite color even the studio is called Purple but all of a sudden I started wearing purple clothes and do everything with purple color.

...

13. And who is the one who supported you most?

Ani: Always my family, my friends as I told you earlier one of my best friends gave me the idea for this particular business. And when I shared the idea with the other friends and my family everybody was like “Do it! We will be there for you”. When I started promoting the studio there were many people who could help. For example the tables, I have a friend who does this kind of things, wood and furniture so he did the tables. I have a friend who is a tailor, she did the curtains and stuff like this that I can’t do. My dad helped me a lot with the electricity and all the emotional and mental support I have from the rest of family and friends.



(Anna's family and closest friends)

14. If you could turn the time back would you choose another path?

Ani: No, definitely not.

Monica: I am very happy with the place I am and the things that happen around here and outside.

15. Apart from this business, what professional accomplishments have you achieved?

Ani: Shame on me but nothing, I am sorry! I had never had an exhibiton but may be if you have another interview in 10 year I will have more things to show up.

Monica: I just start my career. I think this is something I would do in future. I am now a student also in the Academy.

Ani: the only thing I can think about that has happen out of this studio but it is also related to is that we donated a lot of money earned from painting for a kid so I could tell this is something good I had done out of the studio. For the future I will keep doing it because I think it is very important to get out of the box literally and to search for people who not just need to come here and have fun and paint but people who need help and I am so glad that I was able to help with my art.

16. Would you show us your best piece of art?

Ani: Yes, you probably already saw it. It is this painting.



17. Tell us more about it.

Ani: I didn't do it here. I made it in the Art Academy. We had a project to paint anything in this style called Pointillism. And I think I did it very well. And it was my first project made with this style.

18. What about your future art projects?

Ani: I came up with the idea of a creating painting by shooting balloons. It is much fun but unfortunately because of the pandemic and the fact that the studio doesn't work as much as we want, we don't do it often but when we do it, it is so much fun and I really hope this year to star doing it more often and also to start having classes out of the studio. We've had the but not as many as we want. We have been thinking about something like an exhibition here but not for painting, mostly painted clothes.



19. And your advice to nowadays students?

Ani: To never give up, to dedicate yourself of what you do. If you think it is hard to continue with art, I will be honest, it is but if you choose this path this is the greatest choice you could

make because I didn't tell you earlier but the best part of my art job is that I don't take it as a job. I don't feel like I am working and I believe every artist can tell the same.

Monica: My advice will be to be curious and explore as much as you can at your age, do everything in school and out of school.



(Erasmus teachers in mobility in Bulgaria 9-14 May visiting the studio)

If you want to watch the whole video follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APBiAMQjORU>

INTERVIEW WITH NADEZHDA BOYANOVA



1. Hello! How are you?

Hi! I am doing well and thank you for having me.

2. Tell us a few words about yourself?

Okey, so my name is Nadezhda Boyanova. I have been studying in your High school for 5 years and right now I am a graphic designer and I am studying in the National Academy of Arts in Sofia. I like warm weather and going out with friends.



(Nadezhda's participation in Erasmus days 2020)

3. Why did you choose an art school?

I chose it because it has always been a passion of mine to draw and do some sketches. Since I was a kid I had stolen my dad's notebooks and I have drawn inside them, although I didn't have to do it. And my mother is an artist of some kind and maybe that's when it all started.



4. What did you do after you graduated high school?

When I finished school I started to prepare for exams in order to be accepted in the academy and that's where I'm studying right now.



(Nadezhda's graduation party in front of the school)

5. So now how has graduating art school/academy helped you to achieve your goals?

Like a lot. Every teacher that taught me about graphic design, our English teacher has educated me properly to now educate my clients to understand what graphic design is and what work I'm doing for them. Things like principles of design, rules, fonts and everything I have chosen for them and why.



(Nadezhda's English teacher – Irena Korbetova and headmaster Svetlozar Chavdarov)



(Nadezhda's graphic teachers – Peter Chuchuligov and Kostadin Otonov)

6. How did the idea of this business come?

My business idea wasn't actually mine. In 9th grade my English teacher showed us a website which he had done and I was very inspired. That's why I wanted to try it and decided to be a business of some kind.

7. How did you manage to accomplish it?

Like I said, it first started with a website inspiration. I tried to do a website for my high school which was horrible but then I participated in some job offers in a freelance website where I gained some experience. Right now I have a Facebook page where I post everything that I can do and that is where clients can reach me.

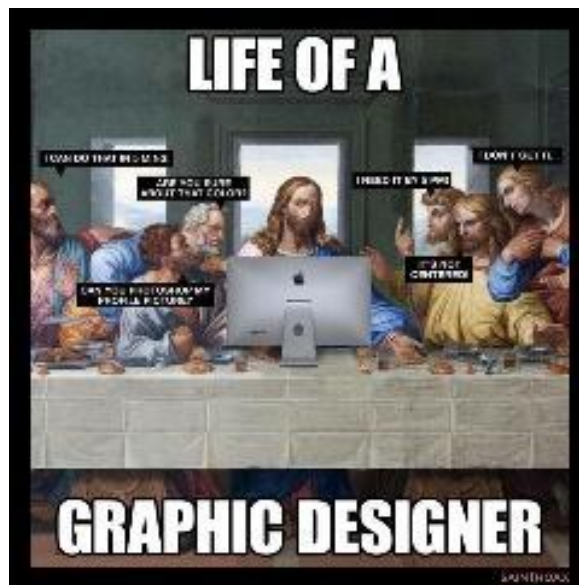


8. What do you love most in your job?

Maybe helping people run their business as they see it but I make it a reality.

9. And what part of your job is most difficult?

Maybe the most difficult part is taking time off for myself because I like to be around 24/7 for my clients and helping them for everything. I just forget to stand up and relax for a moment.



10. Have you ever regretted doing what you do?

Yes, a lot of times. I can say every day, because everyone has those little voices inside their heads which tells them to stop doing what you love and that you are horrible and everything like that. You have to fight them every day to get better and better.



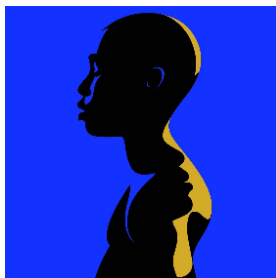
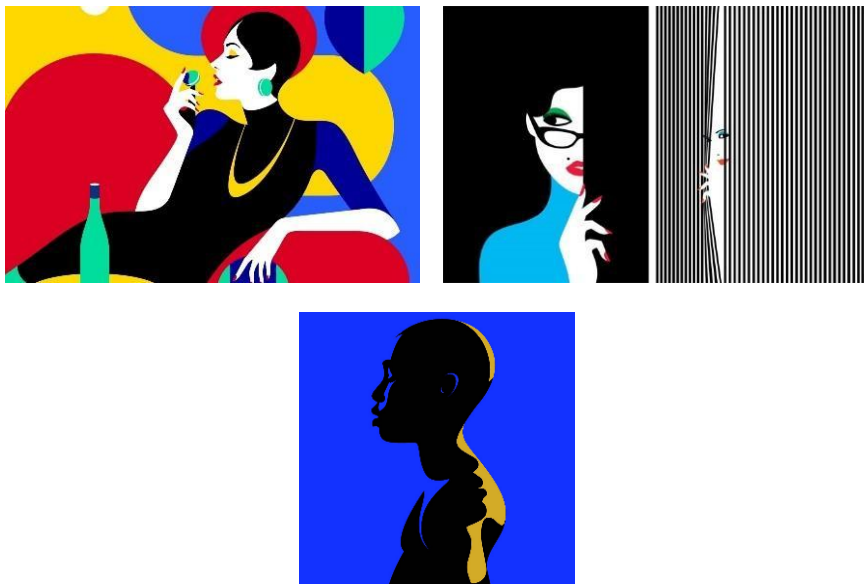
11. Tell us a nice memory in your career?

Year and a half ago or more I have made a logo for one of my clients and you know the job was done, everything was good and then three or four months ago I received a phone call from him and he told me that they were going to build a store where they were going to put the logo in front of the entrance. Every time I come back to Plovdiv, I walk around this street and I see it with the big words and the logo and it is very nice to see it in real life.



12. Who is the person or visual artist who inspired you most?

I love minimalism so my favorite artist is Malika Favr. She is very good.



13. And who is the one who supported you the most?

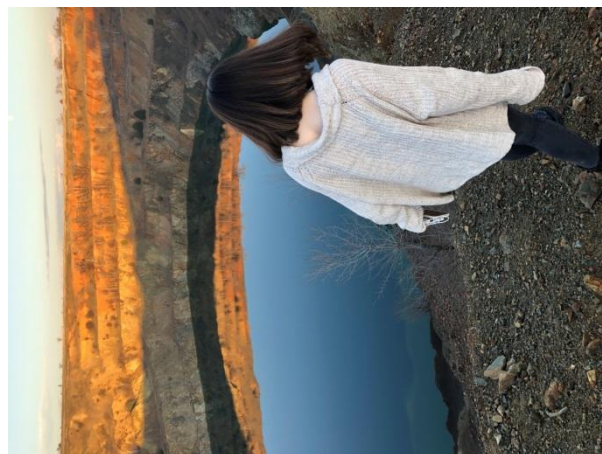
My family and my closest friends for sure.



(Nadezhda's boyfriend and closest friends)

14. If you could turn the time back would you choose another path?

I don't think so. Everything happens for a reason and if I had chosen another path I wouldn't be the person that I am today.



15. Apart from this business, what professional accomplishments have you achieved?

Not a long time ago, like end of the last year I completed a marketing course from which I received a certificate and I am looking forward to do more stuff like that.

16. Would you show us your best piece of art?

I am going to show it right now.

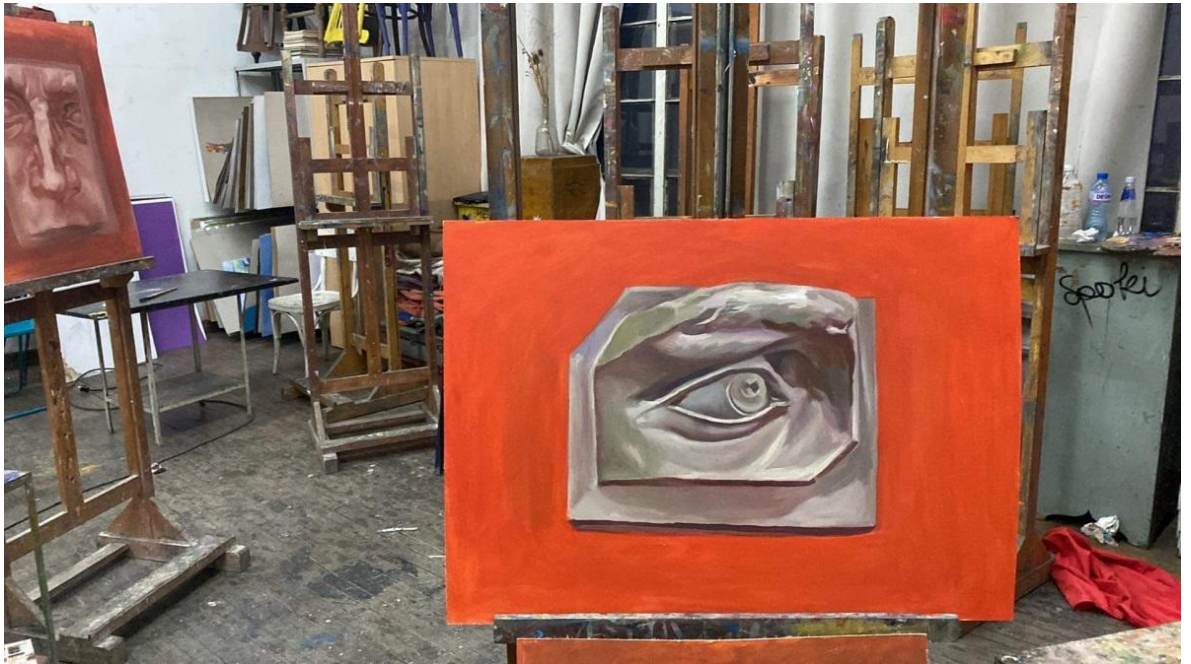


17. Tell us more about it.

Okay, this was made back when I was 10th grade I think and we were with my classmates and my drawing teacher at a village called Lyaskovo near Plovdiv and it was extremely hot but we had to draw every day. We had to make at least two pieces per day but this is my favorite because when I started it, it was extremely interesting to draw it and I had to stand there and sweat every time I draw and it is just a nice moment and this is how it turned out.

18. What about your future art projects?

I don't draw or paint that much but academy keeps me motivated to do that. So maybe it will be something school related.



19. And your advice to nowadays students?

To be kind at your teachers and don't be late for school.



(Christmas party at school with classmates)

If you want to watch the whole video follow the link: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Wq2-pfJKM3o>

ROMANIA



INTERVIEW WITH ALEXANDRU MIJA



L: Good evening, my dear ones! I am glad that I invited a master of music from Focsani, a master who learned at the Art High School in Focsani, a master that I felt would become a master since he was little, both he and his sister, Alina Mija. We are talking to the conductor, Alexandru Mija, already recognized worldwide, fact that honors us. Welcome Alexander!

A: Glad to see you! Thanks for the invitation. It's great to be back home and to revisit places and old friends you grew up with and who contributed a lot to your training.

L: It's great for us, you realize what satisfaction I have to know that our little Alexander has become a perfect musician. Let's not forget about your violin teacher, Mrs. Ghinea Anica, Tumpi, as we used to call her and who had a major impact on you and your sister.



A: She was the providential man at the time because, of course, she was the woman who paved the way for us to music, both to my sister and to me. Alina, my sister, is four years elder than me and started studying the violin, and I remember that then for me, the idea of studying music or studying a musical instrument seemed something unthinkable, incomprehensible. Fortunately, my sister had excelled from the very first years of study and my parents somehow considered it natural that I had to follow the same path and so I met the one that opened my appetite for music, Mrs. Ghinea. Unfortunately, even now I regret that I was not in the country in those moments, but God rest her and I will always thank her for the essential role she had in my training.



L: Not only to Tumpi, but also to the other colleagues from the High School of Arts. Dear viewers, I repeat, Mr. Alexandru Mija is a graduate of the "Gheorghe Tattarescu" High School of Arts in Focsani and wherever he goes, maybe he mentions from time to time about the Arts High School, about Focsani, about the place where he was born.

A: Of course. I was born in Marasesti and Focsani binds me. I have got a lot of special memories. I remember about the teachers from "Gheorghe Tattarescu" High school of Arts that I had to deal with in all four years of high school. The memories are very touchy. I graduated the Arts High School here in Focsani and when I was in the 12th grade I was convinced that I knew what path I was going to take and that's also thanks to Mrs. Ghinea who suggested that I should study orchestral conducting. It was very interesting and I like to think about myself that I was a diligent violinist, a hardworking child and I think I was exercising my passion. I could have been

better if it hadn't been for the stage fright which prevented me from continuing this path. Fortunately, Mrs. Ghinea instilled in me this thought of conducting the orchestra, which I agreed very much because right from the 12th grade I started to study the phenomenon a lot, to read, to take some courses in Bucharest.



L: I would like the world to know that sometimes children laugh when they see the conductor. Many have the impression that the conductor is that man who shakes hands. Tell them what a conductor means. For example, the conductor has the role of the director in a play.

A: It's a very good comparison. It's the question I also asked myself when I was suggested to do orchestra conducting. The conductor is more than that person who shakes hands, although the waving of the hands is very important and often proves to be essential in the proper conduct of the musical act. The conductor is the one who, first of all, gives life to the musical score and gives life to it, being the central pillar in the sense that I like to think about the conductor as the binder between the musicians and those to whom the music goes. That we are talking about the audience, about the online audience that we are now going through this situation, so yes, the conductor is the one who gives birth, gives life to the musical score with which he works and with whom he performs the artistic act and he is the character who is primarily responsible for transmitting or taking over the composer's message as he perceives it in the score. So it's a key element. Of course, now we live in a time when we meet more and more often ensembles and orchestras that play without a conductor. From my point of view it is an exercise in musical virtuosity and technique. Of course you can sing, you can do a concert in these conditions, but the conductor remains from my point of view a key element.



L: I mean you have to know some things and I'm glad we talked a little bit about it, especially since you're a young conductor and the girls from high school are going to look more closely because you're a boy, a young gentleman. I would like to see more attention from the kids in classical music. To the truly profound font things that God has left us, because classical music is directly from God.

A: I couldn't have said it better than you said. Indeed, classical music and the musical phenomenon in general should cease to be a niche phenomenon. Music must enter the community, in any way.

L: It should be emphasized that the huge preclassical composers have composed a lot in churches and for churches and for God, and that's why I say that this beautiful music is brought by God with His hand to earth.



L: Art in all its forms, that it's not just about music. It's both theater and literature, definitely. But this technique, which has imposed itself very, very strongly, has driven people away. There's a poem by Goethe called The Wizard's Apprentice, I've said it a thousand times before, but I want to say it here. The master leaves home, remains the disciple and wants to make the same spells that the master did and jumps everything in the air, does not know how to stop them. That's how we're going to get it. I'm really excited that I'm talking on a cell phone, that I have a car, but that doesn't mean we have to really move away from the spirit, like now, you see, you're looking on your phone and you're finding any information.

A: It's true. But I think that music has been the framework of relaxation, of meditation, of joy through which people somehow ran away from everyday worries.

L: When you were a student, did you imagine that you would become such a good conductor?

A: Of course, my debut happened in college. Then I played in a professional orchestra during the faculty at the National Philharmonic in Pitesti. Of course notoriety is built along the way, but notoriety is not the goal I pursue. You must be able to inspire and give pleasure. It was interesting because during college I flirted a lot with other branches of music in the sense that I worked for a while on radio. I also taught for a year at "Dinu Lipati" College in Bucharest.



L: What did you teach?

A: I taught music history, forms, harmony and several theoretical sciences, but also during college I found out about this huge opportunity to be around international musical personalities, namely the "Enescu" Festival. The idea of participating and listening to the orchestra of international level and of seeing great conductors in Romania in Bucharest was for me extremely interesting and attractive so I started to experience a little artistic management and somehow thanks to it I managed to make the step to musical Europe, so that now, for example, I am the project manager of one of the largest orchestras in the world, the Youth Orchestra of the European Union with which I have spent the last four years.

L: Where have you been?

A: I left Romania in 2016 and I lived in London for 3 years before moving again.

L: What did you do there?

A: Firstly I went to work in an artistic impresario agency and this was a very interesting experience because I understood the musical phenomenon from the managerial perspective as well, then I applied for this position at the youth orchestra of the European Union with which I went in many tours around the world, concerts with extraordinary soloists, with very large guest conductors. Like Vasily Petrenko. I had some absolutely extraordinary experiences. After London the orchestra had to move to Italy because of the Brexit and I lived for 2 years in Italy.



L: Where?

A: One year in Venice and the other one in Ferrara.

L: You know the first opera house in the world was in Venice in 1670.

A: I actually miss a little bit the opera nights at the Royal Opera House in London and those from the "La Fenice" theatre. It was a pleasure to end my working day with an opera performance of the highest quality.

L: Venice remains one of the most mysterious cities in the world, doesn't it?

A: Yes, it does.

A: I also attended conducting masterclasses and I had some concerts abroad. Before you get on the podium of an orchestra, no one asks you, where have you studied or with whom you have studied, but, I want to say that the conducting school in Romania is still a very strong school and very well appreciated outside and I say this in the light of the successes of the Romanian conductors who are many who practice outside. There is, however, still a certain cultural barrier between west and east.

A: Music is a phenomenon in which you must invest very much. Good music is made with a lot of money. That's a terrible truth. An act of performance culture is done with a lot of money. Our role is to educate the society, especially the young people, that can certainly be done and each of

us can contribute to this. But let's not forget that an act of culture of high quality is done with investments.



L: Tell me how you were chosen to conduct the Youth Orchestra of the European Union.

A: This orchestra is top 10. I remember me coming back from England after the first experience quite unhappy. At that time I had concerts in Romania but I wanted to go back abroad and I found this job available and I said to myself that it was a great opportunity to go back to the "Musical Europe" as I liked to call it. Then I went to the interview and I was chosen out of over 100 candidates.

L: We're really happy, you know. It is a pride for us, a young musician from Focsani, who graduated "Gheoghe Tattarescu" High School of Arts in Focsani to be the conductor of the Youth Orchestra of the European Union. What do you think of the Covid pandemic which has prevented you from participating in so many concerts? Sometimes I use to say the pandemic saves humanity but not really...

A: I don't know if it saves humanity but the pandemic changes humanity. It depends on how we perceive the pandemic because it has brought us a lot of problems but it has also brought us a lot of opportunities. As far as I'm concerned, even this online environment that we all have blamed and that we are all tired of.



L: I don't blame it but it takes us out of rhythm.

A: You know, I think the online environment is still an environment through which music can penetrate even more into the unpaved areas. In online you can do many activities to educate young people, you can organize workshops, you can organize many events that will not replace the experience of the concert hall. But I think we're getting into a kind of pre-pandemic routine that wasn't doing us any good. We were in a comfort zone that we couldn't get out of. I think the pandemic has shown us more than ever that we need an act of culture, we need culture. I believe that it will be an explosion of joy and public participation in cultural events in the future.



A: I want to invite you at my concert in the Athenaeum Hall on April 25th. It will be a great joy, a great emotion for me. It was my dream to be in Focsani again on the stage of the Athenaeum, this time maybe without fright. With emotions, but without fright and together with the "Unirea" Chamber Orchestra and to present you a program dedicated to you, a program that will somehow open the spring concerts' season of this year that hopes to be the year of our return to the normality that we want so much.

L: For us you are exceptional and we are very happy to have such a good promoter of the Romanian music school. Thank you!

A: Goodbye and thank you for having invited me to this interview!



INTERVIEW WITH REGINICA TERTIU CHIRICA

B: Hello! How are you?



R: Hi! I'm good.

B: Tell us a few words about yourself.

R: My name is Chirica Tertiu Reginica. I'm from Nereju, Vrancea country.

B: Why did you choose an art high school?

R: I chose an art high school to continue the passion that came from my family.

B: What graduated

R: After I continued in "Dunarea de



did you do after you high school?

had graduated high school, I the art domain, I went to the Jos" University in Galati.



B: So now how has graduating art school/academy helped you to achieve your goals?

R: Both high school and university helped me get better at what I am doing to combine usefulness with pleasure and helped me become a fine arts teacher.

B: How did the idea of this business come? Making masks of goat leather?

R: I didn't necessarily come with the idea, I just tried to combine usefulness with pleasure.



B: How did you manage to accomplish it?

R: This business, this passion, it was not hard to accomplish because I have done something I liked.

B: What do you love most in your job?

R: What I love the most in my job is that I can share my ideas with the kids and also share the traditional arts.



B: And what part of your job is most difficult?

R: The most difficult part of this job are the materials that we do not always have at our disposal.

B: Have you ever regretted doing what you do?

R: No, I have never regretted, because this comes from the bottom of my heart.



B: Tell us a nice memory in your career?

R: I don't have just one memory, there are more than one but there is one in which I went to give an exam to get upgraded in my career and on that day there was a horrible storm and I couldn't get to the examination center.

B: Who is the person or visual artist who inspired you most?

R: The first person who inspired me the most has been my dad and then in high school Mr. Taicutu Gabriel supported me. He was a close teacher to me during high school.

B: Who is the one who supported you most?

R: People who supported me the most were my parents.



B: If you could travel in time, would you choose another path?

R: If I could go back in time I would still choose this career.

B: Apart from this business what professional accomplishment have you achieved?

R: Besides being a teacher, in my free time I help my dad in making the masks and my mom with a traditional device called "razboi"



B: Would you show us your best piece of art?

R: I don't have it with me but I can show you a mask. There are actually two masks that I made with parents.



B: Tell us more about them.

R: What you can see in front of you are two traditional masks which are used for winter holidays and in the “Chiparusul” Assembly. We usually see and use them at the festivals.



B: What about your future art projects?

R: I don't necessarily have any other plans but I wish I could continue being a teacher but in the same time to continue the legacy of my father, the mask making.

B: A piece of advice for nowadays students?

R: My advice for the nowadays students is to never forget where they have come from and to focus more on traditional art.



ITALY



INTERVIEW WITH MARIA MATERA



COURAGE AND DETERMINATION IN THE LIFE AND CAREER OF MARIA MATERA

Courage and determination: these are the two constants in the life and career of Maria Matera, who has been dedicating herself to art and swears she doesn't want to do anything else.

Maria was courageous when at the age of 21 years old decided to completely change her educational path; she had graduated from the teaching institute and was already attending the first year of educational sciences at university; and it is precisely in that moment of her life that the "dazzling" encounter with art takes place: it is love at first sight, which leads her to abandon the university and enroll in Laterza Art Institute: "Vico", where she has to deal with students 8/9 years younger than her; but her courage is rewarded by teachers who appreciate her skills and support her dreams.



She had the same courage when in 2010, now aware of her talent and with the title of potter obtained at the school of Montelupo (FI), opened a studio, where she has dedicated herself to producing artistic objects of various kinds, made with different techniques , but with one goal: to combine tradition and innovation.



Maria is also determined not to be overwhelmed by the critical aspects of this activity: the need to meet very demanding customers, the always short deadlines, the need to continuously expand the range of distribution of her majolica creations (artifacts with an ancient tradition in Laterza).



Certainly she had the support of her parents, who helped her economically and psychologically, and above all of her husband, who collaborates with her in the management of the laboratory, entitled MOTHER EARTH.



During the pandemic, Maria put herself to the test again to try out how much determination she still had; in such a particularly negative period for artistic activities, she experimented with other techniques, becoming passionate about sculpture.



The other positive note is that, while the whole world closes in catastrophic predictions, she opens up to optimism and life, giving birth to a child, who is growing in the affection of her parents and in the beauty of art.



If we believe the words read in Dostoevsky's "The idiot": 'Beauty will save the world', we are sure that anyone who meets Maria in her laboratory will be carried among works of art that soothe the heart.

This is basically one of the aims of art.



INTERVIEW WITH FEDERICA NIGRO



FEDERICA: A CONTAGIOUS SMILE AND AN OVERWHELMING ENTHUSIASM

We meet Federica via an online link, which was necessary because she currently lives in Rome.

We are pleasantly surprised by her "metamorphosis": we met her at school as a very intelligent teenager, but little inclined to schooling; we found her as a young woman, mature, prepared, aware of her qualities and capable of effectively communicating her goals. We are convinced that this metamorphosis was guided and carried out thanks to the passion of her life: art.



In this transformation process, a drawing made at the age of six was decisive: the teacher was so impressed by her skill that she invited her mother to school to show her the drawing and recommended that she accompanied Federica in the realization of her potential. Indeed, it was.

Federica's mother has never stopped supporting her in her training first and then professionally.



Federica is currently completing the exams to obtain the master's degree in Design and Visual and Multimedia Communication; she wants to become a “motion designer” and is already on the right track.



Study and work as a freelance; inspired by Brian Eno, she makes works of art that are appreciated for the quality of the images, music and digital tools.



She confirms that from that distant episode of primary school she has had only one goal: to demonstrate that art can be an essential element in everyone's life, especially in such a particularly critical period, like the one in which we are living, because art serves to express our emotions, conscious and unconscious, and helps to make our spiritual dimension better.



Federica thinks that the teacher / student relationship is very important in training; the student must take advantage of each piece of advice given to him/her by those who have more experience; every scholastic, academic acquisition serves to be realized in professional life.



We are grateful to Federica for pointing out the trainer's role for all students, but also and above all for students who are setting out on artistic paths.



This is a link of Federica's multimedia product:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02dRQmLWks4savNwUtaCPKZ5CE4qGawFns5CGHvP7od6Re39ZAg1jjiowae48gF4DKul&id=100007686469092