

# Rhizophora

Artists: Davide De Lillis and Julia Metzger-Traber and The Seeds of PossAbility\ (DE / VN)  
The Seeds of PossAbility :  
Cast: Long Nguyễn | Lệ Nguyễn | Mai Ngô | Long Cảnh | Đô Lê | Tuấn Vương | Hôn Vy | Hương Đình | Thuận Trần | Hóa Bùi | Dung Hà  
Crew : Katelyn Stiles | Barnaby Tree | Do Thu Hien | Jennifer Nguyen | Marco Cardilli  
Project: Rhizophora  
Medium: 16:15 mins Video Art  
Link: <http://rhizophora.weebly.com>  
Year : 2015

'Rhizophora' is a Video-poem, the outcome of a collaborative process between German artists Davide De Lillis and Julia Metzger-Traber and the Seeds of PossAbility, a group of 11 village residents from the Friendship Village, outside Hanoi in Vietnam. A hundred young people live in the Friendship Village, all with congenital disabilities resulting from their parents' and grandparents' exposure to toxins during the Vietnam war some 40 years ago.

In this Video-poem the 11 villagers lead us through the whimsical experience of a day in their lives. 'Rhizophora' is both an attempt to raise awareness of the continuing devastation of the Vietnam War as well as an ode to the power of life, which can flourish in even the most toxic of circumstances.

The evolution of the project was a constant surprise for everyone involved. Some of the members of The Seeds of PossAbility used to think they should not dance because their movements would not be beautiful enough to be considered "good dance". During the process, they embarked on a vulnerable process of exploration of their unique way of moving, and discovered the beauty in it. They gathered more and more confidence in expressing themselves, as they overcame the difficulties of communicating in a group, in which people used 3 different languages (Sign language, Vietnamese and English.)

In parallel, for both Davide and Julia the project was deeply transformative. They were confronted with the fact that their understanding of concepts like courage, beauty, listening, communication and vulnerability were influenced by societal norms more than they imagined.

"On this creative journey, each of us could contribute in the preferred/ desired way. None of us could have thought of / realized this movie without the creative body-minds of the others. And yet we still left the process with an increased awareness to these questions:

What is equal collaboration ? Is it really possible ? Is it utopian ?"

