

From "A Journal of the Plague Years 2020"

These conditions are a precious occasion to be together in rediscovering the reality of what can truly unite us as we are deprived of our habitual forms and exchanges.

I see myself under these conditions. I see my habitual behavior, and I see behavior that seems to relate to another being. I have moments of surprise – Was that me? I can compare myself to past events and see quite clearly that I am reacting/acting in new and mysterious ways.

I witness a lack of anxiety over events, which normally bring such feelings. Loss of income. Health concerns. I find myself experiencing a sort of trust. All of the difficulties in presenting A Passion with Dzieci, even before the virus entered the picture, not knowing what would or could be. I didn't trust that something miraculous would happen; rather I trusted that *something* would happen. And that something would be enough.

Letting go. Accepting the conditions. And valuing the shock. Throughout this process I've had rushes of gratitude. A realization came to me after our ZOOM presentation of A Passion, after I'd signed off and immediately became "busy" with chores and tasks around the home, when I finally stopped to consider my state; that I wasn't tending to my deepest feelings. What I needed was to sit, to be still, and to give substance to my gratitude.

With Dzieci the call to come together is more amplified now. We have been meeting virtually to unify. A common intention, an agreed upon effort. Values may change in this time, but the value of Dzieci only increases. We are affirmed, consoled, inspired. Why is this work more fulfilling than most anything else in our lives in this moment? We meet but may choose to take the entire session to process our current experiences rather than rehearse. And it's a blessing to be able to do so. Negativity and criticality ebb. Compassion increases. There is still a question for most concerning work in the group versus work in the world. A question also heightened at this time.

One of the qualities that differentiates us is that we are not bound by definitions, - definitions of who or what we are, held in place by projections, assumptions. We are mutable, we are not held to past incarnations, there is always with us, a new possibility. Where else would we be free to be undefined, to be encouraged to seek surprise? In the arts perhaps, but Dzieci is unique in actually being willing and able to support this metamorphosis. And we are called ever more in this day to do so.

Matt Mitler, May 11, 2020