



BRAZILIAN GYMNASTICS FEDERATION

TRAJECTORY OF THE COMPANHIA GÍMNICA OF UEM AND ITS PARTICIPATIONS IN WORLD GYMNAESTRADES

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The Companhia Gímnica of the State University of Maringá (UEM) was created in 2003 as a university extension project by DPE Professor Ieda Parra Barbosa-Rinaldi through his studies at the State University of Campinas. Following the precepts of Gymnastics for All (GfA), the project was created with the aim of stimulating the practice and studies in the field. The GfA brings together characteristics that differentiate it from competitive modalities, such as the valorization of individual and collective potentialities and human formation (SOUZA, 1997). Since the year 2006, DPE Professor. Roseli Terezinha Selicani Teixeira started to coordinate the work together with Professor. Ieda, adding efforts to advance the work. During the fifteen years of this project, more than 300 people participated, especially academics and physical education (PhE) professionals. The Companhia Gímnica of UEM participates in GfA-related events, presenting choreographies and scientific works, and one of the events that deserves to be highlighted is the World Gymnaestrada. This is an international event organized by the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) every four years, and has begun in 1953, with the first International Gymnastics Festival in Rotterdam, in Netherlands with the presence of 5000 participants from 34 countries (BEZERRA, 2015). The latest editions brought together more than 20000 gymnasts from around the world (FIG, 2019). The World Gymnasestrada aims to interact with the gymnastics developed in the countries around world, and the participation of all regardless of the technical level, addressing the exchange of different cultures and people. Given the importance of this event, this work aims to present the experiences of the Companhia Gímnica of UEM in its three participation in the World Gymnastradas with presentations of choreographies of its own creation. These were

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carried out in Austria (2007), Switzerland (2011) and Finland (2015). In the 2007's Gymnaestrada the group presented four choreographies: "Roxanne", portrayed from elements of the group aesthetic gymnastics; "Temas da Cultura Corporal", presenting the contents of PhE (games, gymnastics, dances, sports and fights); "Pneus", exploring as material inner tubes of truck's tires; and "Circo", boasting the history of the circus and its borders with the history of gymnastics. In 2011, in Switzerland, two choreographies were presented: "Poses Acrobáticas" that explored elements of acrobatic gymnastics; and "Pororoca Gímnica", which symbolized the natural phenomenon of the encounter from seawater with river water (traditional in the Amazon). In 2015, in Finland, the group showed two choreographies: "Tangram", which used large pieces of a geometric Chinese styrofoam jigsaw, constructing figures in a playful way along the choreographic composition; and "Bancos", exploring the musical rhythms characteristic of Brazilian culture as funk and samba. The choreography of Companhia Gímnica stand out for its creativity and the variety in the use and exploration of devices. Another aspect of the work is the dissemination of Brazilian popular culture as the guiding axis for the choreographic elaboration, and one of the main contributions for the dissemination of the Brazilian GfA. This cultural socialization represents a potential action for the development of GfA in all different countries participating in the event, which inspire and deepen the knowledge about the constitution of gymnastics as an area of knowledge. In order to strengthen the exchange of gymnastic knowledge, Companhia Gímnica has begun to dedicate more time to appreciation of the gymnastics exhibited by other countries, and for that, the number of choreographies presented throughout the editions of gymnaestradas decreased. We also emphasize the importance of scientific space as a locus for aggregating and sharing knowledge, of which the Companhia Gímnica was present in three Gymnaestrada's edition.

Keywords: Gymnastics for All; Choreography; Culture; Knowledge.