

Helloooo, so who am I? It's always so difficult to tell about yourself, so I'm Yergalem Taffere most people know me as Yagi, and I have already participated in several workshops at Trixiwiz, both as a participant and as a workshop leader.

I'll tell you a bit about the workshop today, but as I said, I've known Trixiwiz for 10 to 15 years or so, I don't know.

I've also DJ'd at a demo when they had a car, and you can already hear it there, I'm active in various areas, I'm an artist, filmmaker, performer, photographer, I do workshops with young people, with kids. Lately I've also been working with women*, because it's important to me to do empowerment work.

Exactly and my last workshop with Trixiwiz was a few months ago. The workshop is called "Haylina", and Haylina is in my mother tongue Tigrinya, means our strength, power, and that's what I called the workshop, (Natna Haylina) our strength, because I also wanted the workshop to be understood by the participants who come from Eritrea, from Ethiopia and from Tigray, that was also the idea.

Unfortunately it didn't happen that women* from Eritrea, Tigray and Ethiopia were there that Tigrinya spoke, but it was a very good exercise for me to simply offer a workshop that was only attended by Black women* or was attended by Black women*, which I could do together with them.

In my opinion, there are not yet so many workshops offered by and for women* who have an Afro/diaspora background, who have not lived here for so long, and who have fled here, and when they are offered workshops, they are mostly done by white people or by Poc, and these are usually not the same realities that are told there.

I have often experienced this myself, sitting in workshops and thinking ok this is helping me right now, but still we don't have the same life realities, and that's why you can't really understand me And because me and my parents also fled here, I was there at the time and only 3 years old, I have that, I know that. More through my parents, because I can no longer remember it myself. But I know, for example, all the days, the paths, the escape from their stories, then it will also arrive in Germany, all the problems that have persisted to this day will not go away.

I think this workshop was simply an inspiration for me, what I experienced and how my mother dealt with it as a woman, with other women* who didn't feel comfortable in this small village either, who have come together and said: "Ok, let's spend time together". Today I would say it was like a kind of cultural café back then, because they sat together in their homes and told each other stories. They shared marriage problems, with the children and also the problems with the white people they didn't get along with. They were really a group of Romja women, a Turkish woman, a woman also from the African continent, I honestly don't remember where exactly. Later, a woman* from Armenia joined . There were always so many different people who weren't white and who felt alone in this village and my mother is also a very communicative person, so it all worked out somehow.

Then I think to myself, actually you were already doing social work back then, and actually you were already empowering people back then, or you were empowering each other.

And I think that's a kind of reminder, a small step to go even more in this direction, with this story in the background. Because that was one of the lessons I took with me, but as a sideline. To see that as something quite normal, I come home and there are friends of my mother sitting there, they are not German, they are not white, they all speak German in their own way, but they understand each other, not perfect German, but they still have their connection. What connects them is that they are migrants and that they are alone in

a small white village and that they are women*, that was reason enough to meet and of course because they also liked each other.