

PEACEKEEPER

All I dream about, all I wish for is to bring peace to Afghanistan once again. When I was an army officer, I longed to spend one single day without fighting, without firing a bullet. How much better it would be to enjoy a day of pleasure, singing and making music. I think it is better to solve problems by singing a song and speaking your mind than by fighting one another.

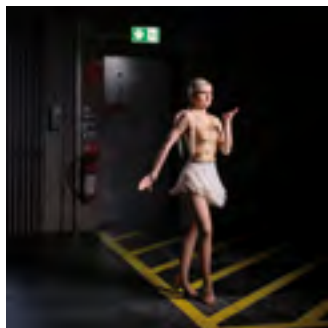
Ahmad Hamed Merzazada, 29, Afghanistan



ARI DANCES

I dream of being a dance instructor who travels the world and teaches people how to dance. It's interesting to observe what happens when you dance. I would like to help people use dance to express their desires, and to show the world how to express feelings without words.

Aria Archontia Anasi, 30, Greece

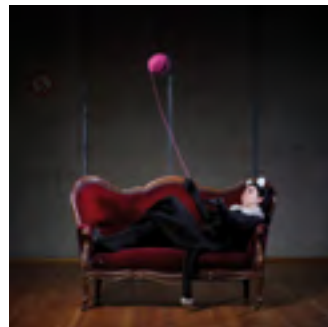


IN ANOTHER LIFE

In another life I would like to be a cat. My fur would be black, only my throat and paws would be white. As if I were wearing white gloves, socks and a scarf.

My cat was that colour. She was free, did whatever she liked, and went whenever and wherever she wanted. I loved her a great deal and was envious of her freedom.

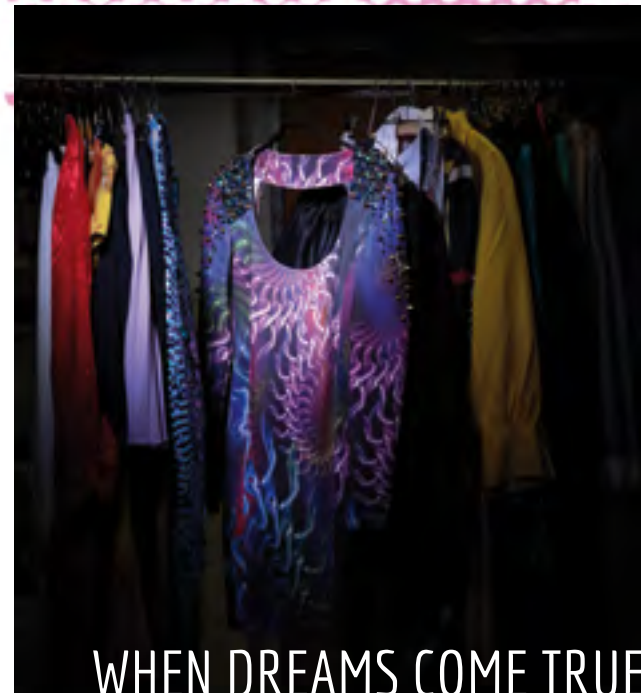
Cholpon Satibaeva, 45, Kyrgyz Republic



DAYBREAK

I stroll along the waterfront feeding the fish. It's quiet, nothing but the gentle sound of the waves and the cries of the gulls. My dream is to be like the wind as it brushes the ocean and stirs up the waves. Morning is breaking, I watch the butterfly and smell the ocean.

Iryna Liezhentseva, 51, Ukraine



By Meinrad Schade (photographs)
and Martina Kamm (texts).

At the centre of *When dreams come true* are dreams and visions. They offer a place of refuge to people who were forced to leave their homes and who have been on the move in the hopes of a better, more peaceful world. Hopes that are often shattered in the harsh reality of everyday life, whether at home or abroad.

Our project aims to give 17 such people a chance to follow their own fantasy visions for once, to set their dreams down on paper and to stage them, in costumes from the Schauspielhaus Zürich. Most of the participants are forced migrants who now live in Switzerland. They are between 21 and 77 years of age and come from such countries as Ukraine, Iran, Afghanistan, Burundi, Turkey, the Kyrgyz Republic, Brazil or Spain. Here, today, the stage belongs to them.



More about the project:
www.face-migration.ch

FACE
MIGRATION



WEIGHTLESS

I dream of suspending the law of gravity. I remember when I was a child, watching television in the evening: there was a show in which the Blue Ox* flew from star to star. In those

days the world was filled with marvellous animals, and the impossible became possible.

Anastasiia Biletska, 42, Ukraine

LIVING MIRACLE

What I want most of all, what I wish, what I wish. What I want most of all is to dance with you, to sing with you, to play with you, to run with you. I dream of you.

Carlos Arturo Ibañez Rojas, 44, Spain



THE MASTER CHEF

I would like to be a master chef, since cooking is my hobby and I love delicious food (my mother is a great cook!). My favourite dish is green bananas and vegeta-

bles with plenty of spinach, aubergine and tomatoes. Someday I'd like to open a restaurant, first one and then many more. *Fiona's*: It would be a proper chain!

Fiona Ishimwe, 26, Burundi

A WISE KING

In my dream I am a king, because I like regal outfits and, as king, I can keep order and find solutions to problems in my kingdom.

Arnaud (nom de plume), 34, Burundi



* After a painting by Maria Primachenko, 'Blue Ox', 1947 Ukraine

THE COUNTESS

My dream is to be a countess or a member of a royal family. I have always loved vintage films featuring gorgeous old costumes and castles. I would imagine what everyday life was like among royals, what they would get up to. I am fascinated by the luxury of the stately ballrooms I see when I travel and visit great homes.

When I watch movies or view portraits, I always secretly look for signs of my relations!

Jelena Rodovich, 32, Ukraine



KHUREM SULTAN

I want to be like *Khurem Sultan*. She was a strong woman who never lost her will to survive in exile. She learned the language and became a strong ruler. No matter what

happened in the world, you have yourself. Value yourself, have confidence in yourself!

Roksolana (nom de plume), 46, Ukraine

PARADISE

I often dream of peace in Kurdistan, my homeland. One time I dreamt that many, many people had gathered in the capital of Amed and that all of us Kurds were holding the greatest celebration the world has ever seen. In the dream I was a white peacock. For Yezidi Kurds, the colour white symbolises peace. Our President Öcalan addressed us, and we celebrated peace and freedom. We were incredibly happy and



danced around an enormous fire. There were green, red and yellow flames flickering everywhere—a symbol of the Kurdish people. And there I was, in the middle of the circle, dancing.

Mîrze Sîbaru, 35, Kurdistan

A PASSION FOR TEACHING

I would like to be a good teacher because teachers can guide children in the classroom and lead them onto the right path. In Persian we say: ‘Teaching is not simply a profession, it is a veritable passion.’

Vahidreza Safi, 55, Iran



THE GOOD EXAMPLE

I dream of setting a good example for many by running a farm. In my family we are farmers, we have large fields and plenty of livestock: sheep, cows, goats, chickens and hares. We grow peanuts, millet, watermelons and vegetables. I’d like to continue that tradition. I think farming is the key to African freedom, because the people who feed you are also the ones who show you the way. Together, we can beat hunger by farming.

Yaya Baldeh, 30, Gambia



A CELEBRATED STAR

I would like to be a very well-known artist. As an artist, I think that I have every right—in the broadest sense—to wear extraordinary costumes. I don’t want to follow convention; rather, I want to dress to express my feeling of freedom. *My life would be a permanent performance.*



José Godoi Da Costa, 48, Brazil

SHINING FUTURE OF HUMANITY

If I were a magician I would stop all the wars on earth and have people perform only creative work. There are so many capable people in the world in the areas of science, art and architecture. But the forces of evil are destroying cities, destroying works of art. They are murdering women and children, old people and young men. Millions of refugees are being forced by war to leave their homelands. And thus they are losing contact with their countries, and with their national cultures. I would like to wave a magic wand and destroy all the dark forces on this earth.

Nina Grygoryeva, 77, Ukraine



THE PHYSICIAN

I would like to be a physician, because I want to help all people. I would like to heal patients by performing operations, prescribing medicine and conferring with the ill.

Serhat Öztürk, 30, Turkey



MY NIGHTLY DREAM

My favourite authors and characters come from 19th-century literature. Sometimes they come to me as visions in my dreams at night. And I like it. So that’s how I came to want to bring these visions to life. It would be very interesting to feel how that would be in real life. And maybe the costume of a 19th-century lady can help me to better understand the authors’ feelings.



Valeriia Sverlovych, 21, Ukraine

DETAILS: Exhibit in the Reformierte Kirche Laufen am Rheinflall Sunday, 11 May 2025 – Sunday, 6 July 2025
Vernissage: 11 May at 9.30 am (church service), followed by refreshments
Opening hours of church / exhibit: daily from 8.00 am – 8.00 pm (www.kircheamrheinflall.ch)

TEAM FACE MIGRATION: General management / project development / texts: Martina Kamm | Project management / photography / staging: Meinrad Schade Workshop 1, Finding your dream / editing & proofreading: Alice Grünfelder Workshop 2, Finding your dream: Maja Peter | Graphic design: Dana Pedemonte | Scenography Atelier bpunkt, Bern: Beat Zurfüh | English translation: Rafaël Newman | Photography assistance: Luca Ehbets | Project assistance: Leyla Haab

IN COLLABORATION WITH SCHAUSPIELHAUS ZÜRICH
Costume design: Renée Kraemer and Sophia May | Dressers: Selma Jamal Aldin and Alexandra Kojic | Organisation: Katrin Hohenacker and Barbara Higgs

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