

## THE LIFE STORY INTERVIEW

Project: E-MOTION - potential of hypersensitivity (2018-1-PL01-KA201-051033)

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**Name/nickname:** TEUTA

**Age:** 57

**Gender:** Female

**Country/city:** Skopje - North Macedonia

**Vocation: (example: teacher, retired teacher):** Actress at the Academy of Arts

### Memory #1

**Childhood – me in a family**

**Please tell me about your childhood.**

**1. Which childhood experiences can you call the nicest, and which do you find the most difficult?**

The word childhood it has the most beautiful meaning, the sincerity, the innocence, the beauty, the love within it. Luckily my childhood was filled with love, without many expensive and simple toys, except one or two dolls, but still with many friends and companions. I can say that my childhood was filled with many, many street activities, with street games now lacking in the younger generation. We played a lot, certainly with a lot of bickering inside of it, which quickly we passed these things. Of course there are also bad moments of childhood, there are many moments' quarrels between friends for a doll or an injustice in the game, but above all I remind the parental love, that I never lacked. I didn't even have violence in family; this is which made me feel better. I can't emphasize that I was a very sensitive child, such still I'm, there is no change in the emotions that I had in my childhood, also from this sensitivity I have been affected as little more in terms of my activity

as a child. I had a lot of love as a kid, I have shared my clothes with my friends, often I could even have a conflict because at that time we didn't have much, we didn't have so much to give to anyone, I even gave to friends my own things, sharing the toys with them, I can say that I was a child with a lot of emotions and a lot of responsibility. I have been often felt touched by injustice, perhaps the accusation at home, or the injustice in games with friends, and I knew how to react a little more forcefully to show my innocence. I believe I didn't do injustice to anyone, it may be unintentional or something too small to be able to defend myself, but I am sure I didn't want to do injustice to anyone and therefore reacted in a slightly more extreme way to my own protection. I could scream, I could cry, but until I show that I was right, it might have been a little louder, I am now more controlled. I can say that I often got the biggest accusations from my mother who thought that I was often the one who did injustice, perhaps from an entirely different mentality inherited from her circle or the education she received from a stepmother who had grown up as an orphan, or call me because I was a woman and she said it easier with the girl than with the boys, that she wouldn't do this with my two brothers.

## **2. In which aspects were you similar to your peers and how did you differ from them at that time?**

When we talk about resemblance between my peers, we have been relatively similar, financially or politeness similar, yet there were many differences within it because we all came from a family completely different from other nationalities, from a completely different mentality, but the child doesn't know how to distinguish those things. I knew to had a lot of friends and I wanted to make lot friends, but here I had that parental restraint and education so I could choose with whom to play, I this disliked. From childhood I remember some of my tears that I also still remember today and I was left wondering why I did it, but maybe from my parents' education that nothing I could want in the moment I had, my parent neither said no. He didn't say no, but I knew he couldn't do it. One day a neighbour of ours came to sell things he had bought abroad, he had some slippers that I liked very much, they were very expensive and I took them from him and sent them to my mother, I said these things buy for me, but I knew they couldn't buy me, I knew they were expensive but I wanted them too. In

the meantime, my friend bought them, she said she would buy them because she was able to buy them, I don't forget her craving why I couldn't buy them but she bought them, but I didn't jealous her. I remember the place, I remember the event, and I cried more than my mother told me she was going to buy them and looked at me as she couldn't buy them, I cried from the situation that was created, not the child's jealousy that she has, I haven't.

### 3. What were you proud of? What was difficult for you?

Proud of my background, proud of the profession that my father had, proud of the opportunity to express themselves in front of friends a little more than they did, I had a tendency, I had a talent they didn't possess, it always made me be different of them, I often boast that I knew the broader society, the opportunity to imitate society and make others laugh at what I had the opportunity to do. I am proud for the opportunity of the contacts my family gave me, the opportunity to work with the many family members we had and as a generous family, our home was crowded with people, people often coming for their own needs, with the friendships I had from all those people I was learning more about than my friends who didn't have much contact with their family members. I take pride in giving my friends the opportunity to send them to places where their parents might not send them, take them to my relatives where I went, and give them the opportunity to reap the benefits I had. Since my dad was an actor and actor with a good career and I was constantly present at his workplace, I enabled others to pick up and enjoy the theatre, which was a place where you could learn so much. I take pride in the relationship between my father and me, because he had a completely different relationship that I probably didn't have from my mother, who was more related to my brothers, I can describe as an unspeakable pride in one respect in that regard father and daughter. He died very early, but he left me with a luggage, a story that rarely anyone can possess.

### 4. Looking back, what would you like to change about your childhood, if you could?

Of course the impossibility to go back is great, maybe I would have liked to have the self-confidence that I have now, to have the opportunity that I can express, this authority, and all the other things that would have contributed to the improvements childhood, but since

these are missing, I still exist with that nostalgia that I had and I call my childhood very beautiful.

## **Memory #2**

**Education: school – studies**

**Please tell me about the period of your education.**

### **1. Which experiences can you call the nicest, and which do you find the most difficult?**

When I was six years old my parents decided to enrol me in the kindergarten. After graduating from kindergarten, followed enrol in first grade, I remember very well my teacher who kept me in her classroom for four years, her name was Jordanka, I quickly became her loved student and had no change or approach other than me even though I was the only Albanian in a school where I was, because all students learn in another language than my, Macedonian. It was a beautiful time, it was a time of communism, where no differences were made and people didn't say it looked different and it made me equal to my other friends. After that I continued in the fifth grade, I had a completely different teacher, and she continued with the same report that my first teacher had, I was an excellent student.

### **2. In which aspects were you similar to your peers and how did you differ from them at that time?**

I was involved in an activity that I was always active, active in terms of drama, in the music section, I went everywhere where I probably didn't have the place, I was very active, I played volleyball even though I didn't know how to play, I also went to activity of a sport where I wasn't very fit because I was a kid with more weight, but I was very active and all this was far ahead of me making any extraordinary success in terms of being more distinct than others, but I was an exemplary student, an excellent student, but I was distinguished from others by these activities and made all my teachers and friends for myself because I possessed a talent that they did not have. After finishing my elementary school, I was registered in high school, also graduating there successfully. After high school came the time for university

registered, I don't know how the audition moment that had been made for university registered went away, and since I had set my mind on becoming an actress, the authority of the institution of the Albanian theatre had reached the news that I wanted to become an actress, because I was the daughter of an actor who had worked there and they had heard that I wanted to. They invited me to work in the Albanian theatre. I was invited because there were no Albanian girls at that time who had finished school at the Academy of Arts and were hired without any education and as a young woman I decided to compete there and get a job. The theatre needed many young female actors, because it only felt the lack of young Albanian actors. I managed to get a job, I continued to work there for almost a year, after that I faced a year later with a generation of male actors who had just graduated and were highly educated, meaning they had graduated from the Academy of Dramatic Arts. There I realized that I was not once equal to women with men, I didn't feel the self-confidence that they had, I didn't understand how I could be different as a woman from them. When I was in the theatre working for a salary and attracted to this salary I could help my family because I had lost my father a few years before and my family desperately needed my salary, the authorities persuaded me to stay here and you have to be an actress even if you have an education or you don't have an actress, you will be just as respected and you will achieve a career later. But I told them one day that I didn't feel good, and I couldn't forgive myself for one thing that I could do and not do. Maybe I was a little more feminist in myself, with an energy that I always fought for, without prejudice to myself, without fear of myself I can't do that. I was sure that I would be very successful there, that I had the talent that could be no hindrance to me, quit my job and I was registered in the next audition that was on academy, I had an extraordinary success, I was embraced by all the lecturers, without any thought of them being Albanian and can't do it, but I was also successful by my colleagues who were from Macedonian nationality, to finish with a much greater success than the others.

### 3. What were you proud of? What was difficult for you?

I am proud in being the first Albanian girl to graduate from Academy and it made me feel even more proud, I am proud in the power I had, to face the challenge, to fear that I had no financial means and I had to get my salary and then pay the price a lot later, but I felt equal

to everyone else at a time when you could be educated and remain uneducated, this was my family education which I constantly we received from close family and from the wider family and district, I wanted to highlight my ancestry also, my place, such as Debar, where the female has consistently made her way, her education not to be behind.

#### **4. If you could change anything about the period of your education, what would it be?**

If I had to change something in my schooling this would change my responsibility which I should have had a little more, I would have put more emphasis on all subjects, not making it easier to pass, or easier to finish, I would be more dedicated to some subjects who later give a preparatory answer to my children, be a little more prepared because they have other tendencies in their professional engagements, they are completely different from my profession and I can't help them in their studies, these I have easily passed in my education, but this has been completed by my husband, because I was more affinity in literature, book.

### **Memory 3#**

#### **Professional work**

**Please, tell me about the period of your professional work.**

#### **1. Which experiences can you call the nicest, and which do you find the most difficult?**

I had given myself a lot of priority in life, I was preoccupied with, I can't say career because career starts later, but a dedication during my career. I worked hard, had many commitments, projects one at a time, the urge to be there, maybe because I was scarce and had many commitments during my studies. As the most beautiful experience I can call the first steps when I appeared in the theatre, it was something I had been waiting for years, thinking about in my elementary school years. The most difficult experience was the moment when I didn't have that high school for acting, I felt bad because everybody had a high school degree at the Academy of Arts, and I didn't, because the economic conditions were not good

for me, I worked to support my family. But now I work in Academy of Arts, and I'm very happy for the success that I have.

**2. In which aspects were you similar to your colleagues and how did you differ from them?**

I was the only Albanian actress at the Academy of Arts in Skopje, North Macedonia at that time.

**3. What were you proud of? What was difficult for you?**

I am proud in the fact that I was first Albanian girl graduated in Academy and that made me feel even more proud. I am in being able to do a lot of leading roles, get a lot of awards, things that I still have and in this time.

**4. If you could change anything about this period, what would you change?**

I would change a lot of things, but things weren't even in my power, I was in a time of transition, at a time when I decided to create my own family, become a parent, take care of my family, my inability to change were very small, because they didn't depend on me, they depended on the system, they depended on different times of political action, the time of democracy, the time of many changes in that period, perhaps often to blame that I would move forward this way but I would like to act in a completely different period but since that period was not in my hands and I could do nothing, I consider myself too powerless to change anything.

**Memory 4#**

**My family, friends, loved ones**

**Please, tell me about your close relationships.**

**1. What do you value the most in relationships? What was/still is the source of difficulties?**

If I value something in relationships with people, be it close ones, but also with people in professional or social relationships, the first thing I value is being human. I don't see any personal gain, that's the first aspect I face when I want to create a society, because when we talk about family, family is gifted by God, and that's nowhere to go, you always want to improve something or finding something good in them, or improving something with your options, your tips, and anything else you can do for them. But when I talk about interpersonal relationships, societies, jobs, colleagues, the creation of a new society, I appreciate that.

## **2. Do your relationships differ somehow from those of the people you know?**

No matter what intellectual or emotional changes we have, I try with my skills, with my advice, with all my being, to help in a way and find the most beautiful thing that person possesses and to highlight so that makes me happy to be close with it. Of course this is very difficult, but I have something that other people may not have. I know how to appreciate, perhaps even the first meeting, and I have a feeling that what pulls something out of the person, which I think I may have even can make them feel more pleasure to have nearby. This is an instinct I have, but later I want to develop it, develop it in the sense that I am always very vigilant in this thing, I am very careful, careful in the sense of discovering it to the end and not discovering it directly with me, but in relation to others, to benefit of course I for that person, in relation to how behaves, in relation to the story tells, to know how much value there is in that person, to embrace after a very long time and to receive the person in my family, with all my ability to help it as much as that person has never helped me, to give to that person the opportunity to keep so close and feel good.

## **3. What gives you joy/satisfaction in rapports with loved ones?**

It gives me pleasure when I have them, when I trust them, when they trust me, when we keep secrets from each other.

## **4. What is the hardest part of building and maintaining relationships?**

I think not everyone deserves it, I don't deserve it as a society because I have to have a lot of energy poured out for that person and a lot, I lose a lot of time, it's not easy to maintain



a society, it's very difficult to maintain a relationship, I don't deserve it in terms of having to trust the other person, have the closeness to be able to at least one more simple thing to talk to that person and keep it a secret during conversations, you also have pity for that person, pity for any kind of problem that comes from that person. I am very emotionally attached to people, I suffer for those people and in that aspect I think this because life is tiring and it creates a lot of stress in my life if the one I have around has any problems, for me it creates a very high emotional sensation and I can't handle it, from what I said, not anything I don't deserve, I don't deserve in terms of the energy I give to that person.

### **Memory 5#**

**My inner world: privacy – hobbies – interests – dreams**

**Please, tell me about your most intimate inner world.**

#### **1. What can you call your own world, where you feel the most “at home”?**

Speaking of the inner world and myself, I find the greatest pleasure in society, in a society where I would not be superior, I don't need to be superior, but inevitably I often become superior, where I have loved ones and where I freely I can speak, where they can hear and love me freely, and where I freely in my account make them feel good. I always prefer to select those people who at that moment, joking inside me and certainly not complex, at that moment I feel good, I don't feel good when someone else does those things, but when I do it for myself to make them others and always want the other one to see happier than myself, so I can be happy myself. This is my greatest pleasure when I somehow want to relax and be a little more liberated from everyday life, the tedious life as we can say. I often want to walk, walk miles and talk to myself, I know how to write very beautifully, without expressing myself so well, but it flows when I get the pen, but I don't do that often, I know how to think a lot of the time what I will write but I don't remember this thing, I don't store these things and I don't know how to use them later but it's not important, maybe sometimes I will.

#### **2. Do you have any hobbies or passions that you pursue?**

As for hobbies, I enjoy the things I did as a kid when they taught us something to do as a handmade or to adorn. Often now they make me happy when I do something with flowers, give any gift I have made by myself, enjoy when I expect something, dye something, decorate it as it comes to me, maybe this is our soul art probably has these gifts that we have. I want to donate a lot, not donate others to me, because I think I have to spend them, I feel a lot better when I donate than they donate to me, and I enjoy it. I also prefer to cook, I am a decent mother, just like many, I often get bored of this, because my children have created such a situation, maybe I have cared too much, but there are times when I want to make cakes, wishes I liked the things I do, often this doesn't happen and abstains from it, I let it bother me a little, but since I was little in the kitchen, my mom has left me to do this, I have no other affinity. I want to sing with friends, I'm musical, but I don't know to sing well, but I get the impression that I know to sing.

### 3. Why do you think this is what you like doing?

I don't know, maybe I like it because these things give me a lot of emotional pleasure, I feel good, maybe the profession does itself.

## THEME

- **Looking back on your life as a story with chapters and scenes extending into the past and into the imaginary future, can you distinguish a theme, an idea or a thought that runs through this entire story? What is it?**

I want to change some things in myself, but they are more powerful than me, maybe over time I have become a mother to perhaps my own little possessive children who are right, of course they are right, but we live a life with a lot of stress, with a lot of information, even though I am a person with a lot of emotions, maybe even more than others, I know how to show it to my kids, I know I can be a little embarrassed, I don't want them to call me on their cell phone, I want to open it fast, I have some black thoughts in my head, that something might have happened, that it might have been what I heard somewhere, this is not well, this is a negativity within me, I'm trying to work in this aspect but I don't have much results, maybe

experience and contacts with many people, with a lot of information inside my head have done this but I will try to get them away if I have time to do this.

## OTHER

### - What else should I know to understand your life story?

To be who I am, of course there are many factors in life, it is childhood, it is adolescence, profession, family, society and I have all emphasized this in some way. All of these factors are part of my life, have created me, built me, and prepared me for the life I face. But the most beautiful thing that has happened to me, in my personal individuality, of all these factors that affect me is the profession. My profession that I have long defined in myself or have been assigned, or gifted by God, or with the talent I have and inherited, has led me to create a personality in me, to look at things on the one side, not only on the one side, because it is a profession that gives you the opportunity of a double life, because in my life I have played many characters, different characters, and I have made them with an extraordinary professional dedication. I have embraced these roles, and when you embrace a role with a dedication and professionalism within yourself, you unravel them in the best way possible because you are facing the public face and the public feels your sincerity towards that character, and you don't can deceive they, that character stems spiritually from Teuta, from myself, and I live as long as I creates that character, lives strongly and this kind of character that I have done, from queens to beggars, prostitutes, and has given me the opportunity to fit into every individuality and therefore understand very well all the people around me, whatever problems they may have and try to give to them very tips, give them a lot of advice, from a lot of perspectives that come from me because I have experienced them and when you get advice from someone who experiences something then it is much easier to counsel someone or understand someone. I thanks God for giving me so much love in myself, so much love to hear someone, face someone, I thanks God for the courage that God gave me, the courage to say yes, the courage to say the opportunity, I have embraced an opportunity given to me to cope with everything in life and to say that everyone can do whatever they want and love.

