

Backstages : The Tough Reality of Organizing an Event

This Sunday, May 11, at Manga cinema, the Cultural Day took place, where students from Lycée Henri Sylvoz showcased Gabonese culture through sketches, dances, and songs.

That date? I chose it. That venue? I chose it too.

When people talk about school events, most think of fun, music — basically just having a good time.

But very few truly understand what it means to be on the other side — not in the audience, not even on stage, but behind the scenes, trying to make sure everything works and all is planned correctly.

This year, I was one of the main organizers of our school's Cultural Day. At first, I was excited. It was a new opportunity to bring people together, to celebrate creativity and diversity of our greatful country.

But I quickly realized that being responsible — especially now that the “show-stealers” from our student council are gone — isn't just about having ideas.

It's about holding things together in the middle of chaos.

Between endless meetings, last-minute cancellations, technical problems, and the constant pressure to make sure “everything is perfect,” I was exhausted.

What people don't see is all the invisible work: booking rooms, managing rehearsals, going back and forth to unlock and lock the venue, finding solutions when nothing is going right and to pass on the information.

It drains you — physically and mentally.

Sometimes, I really felt like giving up.

But I don't know why — my conscience kept telling me that I had to give my all and fix everything.

Maybe it was because whenever there was a problem or a question, everyone turned to me.

But sometimes, honestly, all I wanted was to turn off my phone and stay in bed.

I was also on stage. On top of organizing, I performed as a dancer.

It gave me a completely different perspective on the event — moments where I could just breathe, and my only concern was remembering the steps and having the right outfit.

For a few moments, I stopped being the organizer and became an artist.

Organizing an event like this is no easy task.

It teaches you patience, endurance, and how to stay calm even when everything seems to fall apart.

Nevertheless, I can't deny that the cultural day is a wonderful event during which I can get to know more students from my high school, deepen my gabonese culture and share very funny moments.

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