



W [d o u b l e y o u] UNDERTOW

- A DANCE INSTALLATION

Conception and choreography: Palle Granhøj / Visual design: Per Victor

An intimate work about giving life, seen from an unexpected angle, from below, during a journey made by the spectator in a new reality, through four stations, meeting three performers, a voice and a viola:

- First station: You enter a dark space. You perceive the vague outline of shapes surrounding you. There is a huge skirt. A soft surface. You lay on your back. (Change.)

- Red fluid: Face sections, eyes and eyelashes. Close up of fingers and toes. Zoom on pores. Zoom out. A large wringed skin surface. Bones. Bottom and hands. Belly. Panning shot of a women's inner world. (Change.)

- White fluid: Body in suspension, weightless, immaterial. Feet soles. Feet running: slow, quicker and quicker. Panning shot: Life passing by. Body parts changing forms. Zoom in. Metallic smell, screws, golf balls. Panning of a man's dreams. (Change.)

- Yellow fluid: Again close up of a head, face and hair. Zoom: eyes, nose, lips. A liquid, transparent substance. Body parts floating on it, submerging in it. Glimpses of a young soul, approaching and withdrawing. The milky way, the universe in the background.

Created in close co-operation with the dancers: Maxime-Jo Bech McGosh, Carina Raffel and Kristoffer Andrup Pedersen. Music: Laila Skovmand and Robert Karlsson

Co-producers: Theaterlabor, Germany and Les Brigittines Festival, Belgium. Granhøj Dans is supported by the City of Aarhus and the Danish Arts Council.

Duration: 50 min. - Audience limited to 18 persons per show. It is possible to play up to 3 times each day

"The radicality by which the Danish performing group GRANHØJ DANS breaks with existing standards of dance, is just as touching as it is brilliant."
Westfalen-blatt (DE)

"There is something magic and ritual about this performance."
Danstidningen (SE)

"Actually, the most enchanting dance performance around at the moment is W [doubleyou] Undertow by Palle Granhøj...it puts its audience in a rare mood of gratefulness and poetic earnestness. Not the least due to the unflinching dedication of the dancers Carina Raffel, Maxim-Jo Beck and Kristoffer Andrup Pedersen. And because Anne Eisensee sings so breathtakingly lovely to the accompaniment of Morten Møller's melancholy viola out there in the dark. Goose pimples of the Granhøj variety!"
Information, (DK)

"Fantastic body images"
Jyllandsposten (DK)

"The Best Performance was presented by Granhøj Dans from Denmark...Lying under a wedding dress of a Singer, the audience followed the dancers performance on top of a stage made of glass, accompanied by enchanting live music and singing."
La Libre Belgique, Bruxelles

"A magical and Mystic Performance"
Kulturguiden på DR2, National Danish television (DK)

Contact:

Granhøj Dans
Malco Oliveros
t: +45 86192622
m: +45 6160 5053
e: malco@granhoj.dk

GRANHØJ DANS

GRANHØJ DANS Klosterport 6 postboks 5156 8000 Århus C www.granhoj.dk tel 86192622

W [d o u b l e y o u] UNDERTOW

Granhøj Dans

Danish choreographer Palle Granhøj has won international recognition for his personal style, shown in many original creations the last 20 years. Based on the Obstruction Technique, he reshapes the movements of the performers by means of hindering actions, revealing inner layers of their personality in the process, thus turning the spotlight on human condition. Rather than showing dancers and choreographies on stage, he wants to present men and women as they are: genuine, alive - and complex.



W [doubleyou] – UNDERTOW

In his piece "W [doubleyou] - UNDERTOW" choreographer Palle Granhøj resumes and amplifies the conceptual quest on which he and his co-creators - the dancers and visual designer Per Victor - embarked when they performed "FootFace" in the year 2000. This time, however, Granhøj Dans brings into sharp focus the concept of presenting a performance to the audience from an unusual angle - i.e. lying on the floor, looking up from below - which gives the viewer an extraordinary visual angle, the purpose of which is to activate all of the observers senses and the way they actually perceive what they see and experience.

But where "FootFace" was primarily conceived to satisfy a conceptual curiosity, this new experiment involves a clearcut dramaturgic dimension with which the viewer is also confronted.

In addition for this performance, the Obstruction Technique used by the ensemble will to a much greater extent than previously be brought to bear on the viewer as among other things his/her field of vision is restricted to a narrow space affording no possibility of seeing anything other than what happens in a carefully calculated area the size of a small windowpane.

Maximum 18 spectators at a time

In consequence of the chosen dramaturgic principle and on account of the installation-like scenographic design, "W [doubleyou] - UNDERTOW" can only be seen by a limited number of viewers at a time - 18 persons max. - who will all together or divided into smaller groups be presented to a number of tableaux. The abstract and minimalistic idiom employed by these tableaux - assisted by the sound of live singing and viola music - is intended to awaken the abilities of the individual viewer to make free associations and interpret the scenes shown within his/her own frame of reference - unless he/she chooses to appreciate and view this performance as a purely aesthetic expression.

Suitable also for museums and galleries

The installation shaped setting and the strongly visual - abstract and minimalistic - expression makes this piece suitable not only for theatre and dance festivals, but also for events within fine arts: exhibition halls, art galleries, modern art museums, etc. The duration of the performance is approx. 50 minutes.

Contact:
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