

BETONTANC & UMKA.LV: *SHOW YOUR FACE!*

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BETONTANC & UMKA.LV: *SHOW YOUR FACE!*

Directed by: **Matjaž Pograjc**

Conceived by: **Betontanc and Umka.LV**

Performed by: **Primož Bezjak, Andris Kalnozols, Andreja Kopač, Mārcis Lācis, Branko Potočan, Katarina Stegnar, Gints Širmelis-Širmanis**

Music: **Silence and Uģis Vītiņš**

Puppets and objects: **Barbara Stupica**

Choreography: **Branko Potočan**

Costumes: **Mateja Benedetti**

Light design: **Tomaž Štrucl**

Sound design: **Jure Vlahovič**

Executive producers: **Ira Cecić, Maija Pavlova**

Producer: **Maja Vižin**

Tour manager: **Mojca Jug**

Produced by: **Bunker and New Theatre Institute of Latvia**

World premiere: May 25, 2006, Independent theatre “Skatuve”, Riga

Slovene premiere: June 15, 2006, Stara elektrarna, Ljubljana

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ABOUT *SHOW YOUR FACE!*

Two “terrorist” groups left an indelible mark at the beginning of the past century: researchers into the basic particles of the human soul and researchers of the basic particles of matter itself. Freudians on one side and nuclear physicists on the other worked in small groups, which guard the last remaining secrets of the soul and matter.

World War II ended with the triumph of physics. The horrific aftermath of the explosion of the atomic bomb, which ended a certain epoch in the history of humans, was only a tangible proof, as to what can happen if the basic particles are broken or interfered with. Nevertheless, we still don’t know

what happens if we break the basic particles of the human soul, nor do we know a procedure, which would allow us to do something like that: so far, not even one country has been prepared to invest in the research in the field of psychology, where so much money and numerous countries have been prepared to invest in finding a protocol, which allows them to split the atom. The capital market is not interested in finding a cure for the soul, as capital is growing and expanding on the back of human stupidity.

The problem of final revelation of the human soul is that no-one is paying any attention to the basic particles, which also make up certain mistakes in history. All the debates are revolving around those ideas and differing ideologies and practices, which were causes for conflicts; as these were disputes between two philosophical schools and not an amalgam of coincidences, mistakes and lapses, which transformed individuals into unsuspecting victims.

History proves that it is very easy to destroy a body, but on the other hand it brilliantly hides its methods of how to blow up the soul. Who are those people without faces, who were in the wrong place at the wrong time? People, whose every step and every sound was monitored by raving executors with the sole intent of blowing up their souls, so that the world could be so beautiful today and so useful for us bastards, who are still alive.

This performance won't be a show about patting someone on the back. This performance will be the final judgement for us all, because we allowed ourselves to forget.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

BETONTANC

Betontanc ("Concrete Dance") is based in Ljubljana and is the leading Slovenian dance-theatre company. Founded in 1990 by theatre director Matjaž Pograjc with people from different backgrounds – musicians, dancers, actors, costume, and stage designers – the group was formed as a reaction to high intellectual and conceptual art works in the 1980's. They focus on the physicality of the human body and often make politically engaged work that is based on meticulous dramaturgy. They have performed extensively, touring four continents and over 70 cities, and have been recognized with numerous theatre and festival awards.

UMKA.LV

Umka.lv is a collective created in 2004 by actors who met at the Latvian Academy of Culture. As young puppeteers and actors, they decided not to join any existing theatre troupes, but to create their own artistic collective with no rules, no creative limits, no "forced commitments". "Umka" is the name of a pink teddy bear from one of the group member's childhood and its photo became the group logo. The Umka team also collaborates at times with other Latvian theatre, visual and music artists.

MATJAŽ POGRAJC

Matjaž Pograjc was born on March 1st 1967 in Ljubljana. In 1988 he started to perform as a dancer in the performance of The Red Pilot »Zenith« (Ballet Conservatoire), directed by Dragan Živadinov. Next year he passed the exams to the Academy of theatre in Ljubljana to study theatre directing and in 1990 founded Betontanc. His performances are frequent guests at domestic and international

festivals – his performances travelled the world, through 250 cities in 36 countries on all 5 continents. Since 1993 he's a house director in Mladinsko Theatre in Ljubljana.

SILENCE

The band consists of two members: Primož Hladnik and Boris Benko. Active since the early 90s, Silence has created scores for numerous theater works and films, and has recorded on their own as well as with other artists, including Laibach.

UĢIS VĪTIŅŠ

Latvian composer and multiinstrumentalist who creates music alone and in collaboration with other authors and bands. He has recorded several albums and written music for theatre.

ABOUT PRODUCERS

BUNKER

Bunker is a non-profit organization for the realization and organization of cultural events. Bunker produces and presents contemporary theatre and dance performances, organizes different workshops and other educational programs, carries out various research methods in the field of culture and brings together one of the most noted international festivals, the Mladi levi festival. In 2004, Bunker was awarded the management of the Stara mestna elektrarna in Ljubljana. The program in the Stara elektrarna consists of theatre and dance performance productions, in an educational manner and also strictly performance based. The aim of Bunker is to refresh and invigorate the Slovene cultural space with innovative approaches. We encourage the mobility of artists and their works both in Slovenia and abroad; and promote the intertwining of different art disciplines. We create a space, which allows the exchange of experiences, knowledge and interests among artists and various audiences. Bunker tries to stimulate discussions regarding various artistic practices and subjects; and to create artistic programs and events that reflect upon social, ecological, political and cultural issues.

NEW THEATRE INSTITUTE OF LATVIA

The New Theatre Institute of Latvia is an actively transparent organization whose mandate is to develop and encourage the multi-faceted forms of theatre art—especially new theatre, dance, performance, and circus craft—both locally and internationally. NTIL focuses its work not only on professional theatre artists and students, but also its wide-reaching audience. NTIL strives to expand the creative boundaries of Latvian theatre production and theatrical expression, thereby assuring professional excellence and the freedom to explore new ideas. Responding to the ever-changing practices and needs of Latvian and European theatre, the Institute considers the development of short-term projects—guest performances and co-productions—and long-term events—festivals, educational programs, information exchange, and international collaborations—initiated by both NTIL members and their creative partners as well as representatives of various theatrical disciplines from Latvia and other countries to be fundamental to its work.