

7th European Deaf Arts and Culture Festival "Salvia"

Tallinn, Estonia (08 – 11 August 2012)

Performers



Country: Latvia

Group: Latvian Association of the centre of Deaf culture "Ritausma"

Title of the play: "Life"

Authors: Maria Antonova, Antra Purina, Dana Kalpina-Geida, Anžela Belska

Directors: Maria Antonova, Antra Purina

Choreographer: Dana Kalpina-Geida

Other co-operators: Anžela Belska (musician)

Length: 25 minutes

Actors: Madara Indriksone, Maiga Elbrote, Biruta Lasmane, Liena Cerepko, Sergejs Soklakovs, Juris Elbrots, Aleksandrs Altuhovs, Martins Lange

Synopsis: The creative group of "Ritausma" consisting of a choreographer, musician, two directors, four deaf actors and four deaf dancers has made an innovative stage project "Life" that integrates movement theatre, music, rhythm, dance and sign language and thematically summarises human life from birth until death. Through the parallels with never-ending circles of nature the performance shows that life never ends - it begins each time a new human is born.

About the group: Latvian Association of the centre of Deaf culture "Ritausma" ("Sunrise") is the possibility for Deaf people to take part in various cultural events and hobby groups. The group participating in the festival is composed of 4 dancers from the youth dance group of "Ritausma" and 4 actors of the drama collective of "Ritausma". Age of participants varies from the age of 17 to 51. In spite of deafness, all the actors are playing musical instruments, dancing and talking with their bodies in common rhythm. This creative group was built and led by 3 directors, so it is great team work.

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Country: Germany

Group: THOW & SHOW MÜNCHEN

Title of the play: COMEDY SHOW with THOW & SHOW

Author: Roland Kühnlein and the team of THOW & SHOW

Director: Roland Kühnlein

Choreographer and scenographer: Team of THOW & SHOW

Length: 40-45 minutes

Actors: Roland Kühnlein, Susanna Weber-Kühnlein, Jesus Lohwieser, Gertraud Sailer

Synopsis: "Life between heaven and earth" - four different skits in sign language. "Breakfast" – "Hans in luck" – "Desperately" – "Class reunions".

About the group: THOW & SHOW show plays in German Sign Language (Deutsche Gebärdensprache, DGS). The German Sign-Language-Theatre has been founded in 1979 as an action group of the Deaf Association of Munich and its surroundings. THOW & SHOW is the first theatre in Germany, which dared to show plays on stage in their native language – DGS, which is a full-fledged language, where emotion and information can be displayed equally to spoken language. So this supported the Deaf people in their fight for acknowledgement. It has been a silent revolution of the Deaf in Germany. The group THOW & SHOW is a very important part of Deaf culture.

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Country: Belgium

Group: Voir les signes

Title of the play: Station

Author, director, choreographer and scenographer: Lut Reysen

Other co-operators: Albert Berthe

Length: 40-45 minutes

Actors: Christain Marechal, Jan Braet, Graziella Falletta, Katia Lattrez, Pierre Kalema, Alessia Falletta, Romain Scaillet

Synopsis: This is the story about the lives of train passengers at the station: The train is often late and it sometimes passes the station without stopping, causing the travellers to be stressed, unhappy and angry. Some of the people in the station are: A homeless woman living in the station; a rich man on his way to the bank; a lady with an appointment; a student on his way to his exam; the travellers have to wait a long time for their train; a strange man keeps an eye on the passengers...

About the group: The Deaf theatre company "Cie imagerie" was founded in 1990 and has played many performances both in Belgium and abroad (Germany, Spain, Sweden, USA, Netherlands and Russia). In 2004, the group changed its name to "Voir les signes", under which the group also performed two years ago in Slovenia.

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Country: Croatia

Group: Theatre, Visual arts and Deaf culture - DLAN

Title of the play: "9 Months and 10 Minutes"

Author and director: Iva Vrbos and Lino Ujcic

Choreographer and scenographer: Theatre DLAN

Other co-operators: Sandra Banić Naumovski

Length: 30 minutes

Actors: Lino Ujcic, Angel Naumovski, Iva Vrbos

Synopsis: "9 months and 10 Minutes" is a play about life. After nine months of security, warmth and self-discovery in the mother's belly we come into the fight with everyday life. Every day the same, everything is done in a hurry, not enjoying life, food, drink, love, society, ... It all boils down to the mainstream. Each day brings nothing new - only the speed, rut and indifference. The question is what about all that effort into creating the world, during the nine months of anticipation, anxiety, hope ... to make it all into an everyday "10 minutes" - waking up, preparing for a job, going to work, sleeping, and so on.

About the group: "Theatre, Visual Art and Culture of the Deaf - DLAN" was founded in 2001 with the purpose of promoting Deaf culture, its values and the inclusion of Deaf people in all spheres of cultural life. Besides theatre, DLAN is involved in the promotion of sign language through sign language courses, poetry in sign language, sign-dance, visual arts by Deaf authors - painting, photography, sculpture and video art, narrative in sign language, the promotion of sign language and Deaf culture through cultural events, workshops, lectures, and articles on the website.

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Country: Hungary

Group: Deaf Flamenco Group "Dancer in Silence"

Title of the dance: Power of Silence

Author, director, choreographer, scenographer: Eszter Papay

Other co-operators: Muriel Prevot, Marianna Veronika Szegedi (International Sign interpreter)

Length: 45 minutes

Dancers: Eszter Papay, Judit Mongyi, Jozsefne Vajda, Aranka Petkene Baksza, Erzsebet Totok, Erika Turoczy

Synopsis: *It is a revue where mature Deaf women transmit what flamenco means to them: joy, freedom, passion, while their femininity unfolds. The genre of flamenco gives a taster of beauty, and history of flamenco. A dance, which is about the sensitive woman inside, who is fully able to put music into shape even without hearing it. "To be flamenco means: you see the world differently. Open, destiny is in your mind, music in your nerves!" T. Boras*

About the group: *The "Dancer in Silence", a Deaf flamenco dance company was established in Hungary in 2010. The mission of the dance company is to teach flamenco dance for Deaf people. The dancers are solely Deaf women, and together they would like to show that the attraction towards music and dance exists within every person, and it can be a powerful tool for self-expression even for people with hearing impairment. The objective is to share love and passion for movement and flamenco dance. The methodology of dance classes is basically the same as in any other dance class, with the exception that the dancers communicate in sign language. In stage performances the dancers dance to flamenco music just like they would in a regular performance, therefore the audience can't tell that the dancers are hearing impaired. Although the dancers don't hear the music, they feel the rhythm through vibration.*

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Country: Estonia

Group: Moos

Title of the play: Liliom

Author: Ferenc Molnár

Director: Aivo Erm

Length: 30 minutes

Actors: Aivo Erm, Marko Uripea, Oleg Petrov, Viktoria Kroitor-Erm, Hugo Erm

Synopsis: *Only one hug changes Liliom's life – the one around Julie's waist on a carousel. Thinking about the baby to be born soon, Liliom makes a desperate decision – to rob money from the old Jew and escape to America. But his life takes a new turn again.*

About the group: *a troupe consisting of empathic and talented Deaf youths who wish to spread the theatre bug to Deaf people.*

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Country: Lithuania

Group: Theatre troupe "Mimika"

Title of the play: Hug Arise

Author and director: Janina Mazeikiene

Scenographer: Nojus Petrauskas

Length: 30 minutes

Actors: Nijolė Karmazienė, Valdas Katutis, Daiva Skavronskytė, Edita Lapinskaitė, Genovaitė Vengalytė

Synopsis:

*Only a sign of silence which cries
On the mouth are leaves
Autumn eyes are looking
Language of life in the ear
Touching the stone
You're breaking the silence
Shortness of breath draws the symbol
Yawning time
Gestures into wings
Flown up
Over their own destiny
Hug me
We found the silence
Each other*

It is poetry about love. Pain, miscommunication and finding one another are the main goals of this performance.

About the group: *The "Mime" is a movement, gesture and abstraction theatre. The sign language could be as expressive as the text. The body is an instrument for the actor. The director with his imagination creates a lot of scripts by himself for the theatre. Both directors J. Vaitiekaitis and J. Mažeikienė marked their works with deep insights and visuality. The most important theatre direction is to help people with disabilities, make their lives richer and more interesting. The actors prepare thoroughly for each event to earn the attention of the viewers.*

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Country: Finland

Group: Sateenkaariteatteri

Title of the play: "Eline's almost here"

Author: Noora Karjalainen and the group

Director, choreographer, scenographer: Noora Karjalainen

Other co-operators: Anne Sjöroos (producer)

Length: 30 minutes

Actors: Noora Karjalainen, Aku Karjalainen, Aino Hakala, Aino Laiho

Synopsis: *"Eline's almost here" is a poetic journey through depression and solitude, which tells the story of young Eline who has lost the track of time and place. Under the pre-eminent weight of her*

sister's recent death, Eline decides to fall asleep and never wake up. While wandering in the landscapes of her surrealistic dreams she meets a mysterious magician called Sen. The two make a deal: if Eline survives from the dangers of meeting her subconscious, Sen helps her to get her life back. Eline begins her adventure. "Eline's almost here" combines visual theatre, dance, circus and puppetry. The show is performed in physical language easy to understand for anyone.

About the group: Founded in 1989 Sateenkaariteatteri has been a legendary part of Finnish Deaf culture for over twenty years now. This amateur theatre from Turku, Finland has over thirty members, both amateurs and professionals, specializing in visual performances and art. Sateenkaariteatteri has been involved with many plays, festivals and cultural events in Finland and in Europe, and it has enjoyed great success over the past years.

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Country: Spain

Group: Pantomime group "OSORD"

Title of the pantomime: "Gimnasio", "Suerte"

Author and director: Manuel Pinero Ruiz

Length: 45 minutes

Actors: Manuel Pinero Ruiz, Victor Manuel Hernandez

Synopsis: The performance shows that pantomime is a proressive, incurable disease that is necessary in order to enjoy life.

About the group: The Madrid association of the Deaf was founded in 1906 and its department of culture is involved with pantomime, theatre, dance and songs. The association has organised the international pantomime biennial from 1986 to 2004 in Madrid. The pantomime group "OSORD" has performed in Lithuania, France, Russia, Germany and Italy.

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Country: Slovenia

Group: "Tihe stopinje"

Title of the play: Življene ('Life').

Author and director: Lada Lištvanova

Choreographer and scenographer: Damjan Šebjan

Length: 20 minutes

Actors: Damjan Šebjan, Lada Lištvanova, Petra Šiler, Tea Lukan, Jože Bizjak, Vladan Vukajlovič

About the group: In 1999 the Deaf Association of Slovenia set up a Deaf theatre group called *Silent Footsteps*, which consists of Deaf actors of local clubs. It is led by the director Lada Lištvanova, who graduated from the Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Brno, Czech Republic. The group has a rich repertoire, which attracts the interest of the hearing public. *Silent Footsteps* has appeared in the acclaimed local festivals, such as *Ana Desetnica* and *Lent*. The group has had many successful performances and is internationally recognised – they have also performed to Queen Silvia of Sweden.

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Visiting performers

Country: Hong Kong

Group: Theatre of the Silence Hong Kong

Title of the play: *A Journey into the World of Visual Wonders*

Director: Bernard Bragg

Other co-operators: Fanda Lam (production manager), Lego Ng (sign language interpreter)

Length: 40 minutes

Actors: Edward Chan, Edwin Chan, Jeff Ho

Synopsis: "*A Journey into the World of Visual Wonders*" - A light fast-paced play embraces the cinematic nature of sign language, movement and mime. Theatre of the Silence lends its physicality and inventiveness to the play. The performance entertains and enlightens both Deaf and hearing audiences. "*A Journey into the World of Visual Wonders*" will be performed with the group's famed visual communication theatre technique, giving visual storytelling and visual poetry. TOS attempts to reach the visual vernacular's mind and enter the world of fantasy behind the words.

About the group: Theatre of the Silence (TOS) was founded in 2000 by a group of hearing impaired theatre artists in Hong Kong. Through their work on stage and exchanges with theatres worldwide they spread the word that people, whether hearing or hearing impaired, should have an equal opportunity to enjoy and partake in arts. The company's work embodies an alternative aesthetics based on the member's superb body movement, creating theatre pieces not only for those in a world of "silence" but also for those in the world beyond. TOS has toured to more than ten European, Asian and North American cities over past three years. TOS was named by the Time Magazine in 2005 as the "Best Asian Theatre with a Difference".

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Country: United Kingdom

Group: Signdance Theatre International (Signdance Collective)

Title of the play: *Half a Penny*

Author: David Bower and Pedro De Senna

Director: David Bower

Choreographer: Isolte Avila Primoz Bayzac

Scenographer: Ethos Festival

Other co-operators: Buckinghamshire New University, Ethos International Festival Ankara

Length: 35 minutes

Actors: Maria Margarita Degraal, David Karl Bower, Alexander James Ward, Jeremy Doulton, Francesca Lucia Osimani

Synopsis: SDC's directors, Isolte Avila and David Bower as Vox Populai and Citizen Vox work with the stereotypical figure of political and inspiration speakers, their characters reflect, oppose and illuminate where we see ourselves in the current political and socio political climate through humorous and intentionally challenging responses in Signtheatre (international sign and BSL), Sign Song and Signdance. Half -A- Penny is a new international collaborative performance with our in-house band, the British Rock/Folk/Punk set 'Dead Days Beyond Help'. All work is completely original with no cover versions.

About the group: Signdance Theatre International (Signdance Collective) is an international performance company producing and collaborating with its signature performance - style signdance theatre. Founded in 1987 / re-established in 2001 by Isolte Avila and David Bower in Amsterdam and Southeast England, Signdance has become a powerful exponent of Deaf and disability led cultural development throughout the world. The Company performs in hundreds of cities and towns in Western and Eastern Europe, Asia and US, both theatre and building based as well as street theatre.'

Web page: <http://sites.google.com/site/signdancecollective/>

The Signdance Collective YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/SigndanceCollective>

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