

Monika Żmijewska

Dancers cross borders and surprise. Kaleidoscope in Białystok

100 Toasts



Anita Wach '100 Toasts' Festival materials / Jakub Wittchen

Anita Wach from Via Negativa based her performance on interaction with the audience. In this piece she invites us to join a celebration and asks us to raise toasts, precisely one hundred toasts. Each viewer receives a plastic cup with wine and a card with written toast- all read at loud by each member of the audience. There is plenty of them mostly dedicated to a figure of an Artist: for eccentric life, for unique ideas, for extraordinary personality, and also for the artists which should be gone to make a room for new generations. Each toast either makes the audience laugh either transforms laughter into silence.

In the meantime the artist on the stage presents specific kind of inbred dance: she carefully walks among dozens of plastic cups displaced on the floor, repeatedly dressing up and undressing, making aerobatics with cups doing her best not to spill the wine or opposite, to spectacularly pour out the liquid on her body. By building contrast between her gestures and

meaning of toasts she creates unusual performance, full of surprising twists. Performer acts-dances in the way, which makes some viewers confused, some of them amused. She breaks generally accepted rules how performance "vernissage" party should look like, she is ironic about artistic ambitions and expectations, she pulls audience into a game in which she proves that an artist can put her*himself in various situations for the sake of creation. Its a very interesting performance, constantly shifting meanings and perspectives. And it puts all the guests in delicious mood.