János Graur

TESZT – Manipulations

The opening performance of the festival was an experimental theatre work, conceived and directed by Bojan Jablanovec, and presented by the participating companies - Via Negativa - Csiky Gergely Hungarian State Theatre - MASZK Association - Kosztolányi Dezső Theatre - Infant (RO, HU, SRB, SLO).

A theatre work explores the characteristics of society and questions of trust between people in all areas of life, using non-traditional theatrical ideas, was the perfect way to join the programme of the Timisoara Theatre Week. Situations that are familiar from our everyday lives, words and question marks simply thrown together suggest how difficult it is to break through the wall of trust with sensible answers, while the astonishing, unadorned, naturalistic, terse but eloquent vulgarism, not used for its own sake in a given situation, is expected to be acceptable to the spectator, who is almost imperceptibly drawn into the play.

The richly imaginative situations, settings and symbols - the naked monkey president, the girls dancing between sharp knives, the chewing gum chewed to the point of tastiness - are based on trust between people who are constantly being tested, and the not always flattering solutions are based on our memories of the past, with grotesque solutions that sometimes veer into surrealism.

Bojan Jablanovec is an author, director and set designer - Csaba Formanek, Esztella Levko, Etelka Magyari, Kriszta Szorcsik, Imre Zsolt Mátyás, Csaba Mészáros - who, together with his fellow artists, has a wealth of ideas, witty and unexpected solutions, with a pithy delivery of the message, they made this unconventional, but certainly thought-provoking dramatic performance enjoyable.