

Magyarnarancs, Budapest

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Artner Sisso

Manipulations

Manipulations is a Hungarian-Slovenian-Serbian-Romanian co-production, a combination of theatre and performance. A vision of social and personal development in Eastern Europe and the Balkans, a generational time warp, an open-circuit investigation of hidden causal relationships. The director Bojan Jablanovec did not necessarily direct the play in the classical sense of the word, the arch-conceptualist of the Slovenian Via Negativa association "merely" imagined it, shuffled it, scrubbed it, then left some windows open, so that the wind could blow the excess out of the performance at any time.

The basic theme: debtor and creditor; in all kinds of constructions, emotional, financial, spiritual, theatrical. The rehearsals took place in changing locations, the improvisations, the experiences of the actors bringing new meanings from other landscapes, the trust, the negotiation and finally the titular manipulation that is connected to all of these were also brought up during the performance.

The musical framework is the song "The Who My Generation", a song from the sixties about covering things up, the old disappearing, the new being strangled and hoping we die before we grow old. The production brings to the surface a myriad of related emotions, and actors with different backgrounds and performance tools help each other to deliver a performance of theatre and social philosophy. Which obviously takes a slightly different form each time, keeping the frames and the best parts, but with its notable 'flaws' it always holds up a hard mirror to our conflict management skills, our memories, our presence in the world, our preconceptions of theatre. Anyone who is brave enough to take a peek, curious about this magical naturalistic theatre, can certainly do so at the Theater in Szeged this summer and at the Desirée festival in Subotica in the autumn.

TEST Festival, Timisoara Csiky Gergely Theatre, 23 May.