

JE T'AIME :: JE T'AIME

A project by Bernhard Mikeska and Lothar Kittstein

Production **Schauspiel Frankfurt** at **Bockenheimer Depot**

The world-famous actress Cathérine, star of the cult movie JE T'AIME, celebrates her 50th birthday. All important people from the movie world show up in her glamorous villa. But the party can only cover with difficulty what's hidden underneath of it's shiny surface: Cathérine's producer abandons her, her husband has a love-affair with very young actress Olga, the guests are whispering. At the end of the party there's a gunshot - Cathérine is dead.

During the following years young Olga gradually finds her way into Cathérine's position. She buys her villa and is casted for her role in the remake of JE T'AIME. At the peak of her fame Olga blunders more and more into the maelstrom of her role model. Less and less she's able to distinguish between reality and movie world. When a movie about her life is prepared, last certainties are becoming doubtful. Olga is acting the role of her life. Or *is* this her life - only a role? And what's the name of this role - Cathérine?

As party guest in the middle of the happenings, the spectator, wearing headphones, simultaneously experiences his own subjective perspective and the collective moment with the audience. An irritating amalgam of closeness and distance makes the spectator imagine himself as moving through a film. The setting is set in motion, perspectives are shifting, surprising insights and views slide along like in an oversized dolly shot.

The movie in the mind of the spectator eventually sucks him irresistibly into the maelstrom of Olga's dream of death. And so, the theatre turns into reality, which is made to tell stories, to let dreams become true - a dream factory.

Bernhard Mikeska und **Lothar Kittstein** gained a great deal of attention with **REMAKE :: ROSE-MARIE**, a one-to-one-performance about famous Frankfurt prostitute Rosemarie Nitribitt. In the second part of their diva trilogy they now turn to the "dream factory" of Hollywood. Again they create a performance questioning reality and identity in a complex manner, where things are not what they appear to be. Lothar Kittstein's text enables precise acting like in a movie, and at the same time evokes the vastness of the reality of great movies.

Both of them are supported by set designer **Dominic Huber (blendwerk)**, who founded together with Bernhard Mikeska the swiss-german company **mikeska:plus:blendwerk**. Bernhard Mikeska and Dominic Huber invent theatrical evenings that re-evaluate and re-adjust the watching habits, attitudes and relation between actors and spectators. In order to do so, they create spatial systems at the borderline between hyperrealism and extreme artificiality making a subtle use of light and sound. Especially their work «Rashomon :: TRUTH LIES NEXT DOOR» (Zurich 2006) gained extraordinary success. The piece has been invited to several theatre festivals around the world, among others to Fadjr International Theatre Festival in Tehran, Kraków Theatre Reminiscences (2008), Autorentheatertage Hamburg (2009) and IMPULSE (2007).

cast Traute Hoess, Franziska Junge, Valery Tscheplanowa, Nils Kahnwald, Thomas Schmidt, Peter Schröder and Rahel Rosenkötter / Paula Rückert **director** Bernhard Mikeska **writer** Lothar Kittstein **set design** Dominic Huber **costumes** Almut Eppinger **sound design** Knut Jensen **light design** Marcel Heyde **dramaturge** Alexandra Althoff **sound** Joachim Schröder **assistent director** Laura Linnenbaum **assistent set design** Michaela Kratzer **assistent costumes** Dorothee Joisten **internship** Britta Laux (direction), Pia Gottwals (set design), Isabelle Schmidt (costumes)

Premiere August 25th, 2011, Schauspiel Frankfurt / Bockenheimer Depot

Shows August 26th, 28th, September 01st, 03rd, 04th., 07th., 08th., 10th., 11th., 22nd., 24th and 26th
Public Rehearsal August 18th, 2011

No more shows in Frankfurt.

Shows are in German. For touring it is possible to prepare an English version.

www.schauspielfrankfurt.de / www.bernharmikeska.de / www.blendwerk.ch