

Performance Situation Room “SO SORRY”

19 December 2014 / Het Veem Theater

“I hear you now...”

In the framework of the LLB activity Performance Situation Room the program “So Sorry”, an initiative by Noha Ramadan and Lea Martini, was hosted by Het Veem Theater, with the generous contribution of the Tropenmuseum Amsterdam, and special guests Anke Bangma, Marcus Balkenhol and Quincy Gario.

SO SORRY was curated as a two-part event consisting of the performance Deeply Really Truly (Martini/Ramadan 2013) and the conversation piece Host Club. The two parts were complementary in their different focus. After watching Deeply Really Truly - a performance of public apology speeches collected from the last three decades - Host Club additionally gave stage to a discussion of more personal, local and current issues concerning apologies.

The audience was hosted in small groups and asked to approach each other and the subject through the intimacy of round seating's and personal perspectives. In three rounds the dialogue grew in depth, fed by performative or contextual input in the breaks. Artist Quincy Gario gave a spoken word introduction, inspired on the performance. Tropenmuseum Amsterdam curator Anke Bangma showed and problematized a few images from our colonial past, and went in dialogue with social anthropologist Markus Balkenhol about how we deal with cultural inheritance and slavery.

The second half of the evening thus opened a complete different space in which the audience felt welcome to engage with the topic themselves. The event succeeded effortlessly in bringing together performance and context, relevant content and its embedding in one whole, that affected the visitors on, both personal and collective, both emotional and rational levels.

Concept Noha Ramadan and Lea Martini; Performance Olivia Reschofsky, Noha Ramadan and Lea Martini; Light design Katinka Marac; Sound/Video S.M. Snider; Production velvet lee en Het Veem Theater.

SO SORRY was an initiative Noha Ramadan and Lea Martini, realised in coproduction with Het Veem Theater, with support of het Amsterdamse Fonds voor de Kunst (AFK). SO SORRY is part of the Life Long Burning (LLB) project, supported by the Cultural Program of the European Union.