

LLB report “The Curators’ Piece: a trial against art” | Tea Tupajic, Petra Zanki

Presented on Sunday September 6 / Veem House for Performance

At the opening of the season Veem House for Performance presented, in collaboration with Nieuwe Grond — the context program of the Dutch Theatre Festival — the performance The Curators’ Piece (A Trial Against Art) by the Croatian artists Tea Tupajic and Petra Zanki.

Relying on the relations between the artists, the curators and the audience, the performance The Curators’ Piece deals with the possibility of art’s influence on today’s society. What is art today? Can it save the world? What is the role of the artist, the curator and the audience in it? The Curators’ Piece addresses these questions in the context of a staged trial against the arts, in which international curators take turn on the bench of the accused and defend the arts. The Curators’ Piece is fiction and reality at the same time: A trial against art and its protagonists, where the gathered community judges itself each time anew.

The Curators’ Piece is developed by Tupajic and Zanki from 2011 onwards in collaboration with chosen and invited international performing arts curators that are relevant for shaping the global picture of today’s contemporary performing arts field. In the Amsterdam version from the original cast Per Ananiassen, Sven Åge Birkeland, Florian Malzacher and Grzegorz Reske were on stage, joined by Anne Breure who, being the curator and co-producer of this particular event, was interrogated by her colleagues. It opened up a whole range of interesting dilemma’s and issues also extending the local context.

By showing this work and have it take place in the context of the TF festival, Veem House for Performance and Nieuwe Grond gave space to the current pressing questions about arts, the field, its actors and their responsibilities at the opening of the new season.

The house was sold out and filled with excitement before and after the show in the bar stayed for long discussions and talks. On facebook people beforehand called out for left tickets, and some had to be send home..

Credits

CREATORS Tea Tupajic and Petra Zanki DIRECTOR Tea Tupajic DRAMATURGY AND CHOREOGRAPHY Petra Zanki CURATOR NIEUWE GROND Anoek Nuyens PERFORMING CURATORS Florian Malzacher, Sven Birkeland, Grzegorz Reske, Per Ananiassen, and Anne Breure RESEARCH PARTNERS Steirischer Herbst, On The Boards, and PACT Zollverein CO-PRODUCERS BIT-Teatergarasjen, Teaterhuset Avantgarden, Kunstcentrum BUDA, MDT, o espaço do tempo, Performance space 122, and Grand theatre Groningen WITH SUPPORT FROM Trust for Mutual Understanding, City Council Zagreb, Ministry of culture of Republic of Croatia, and Life Long Burning.