

LIFE LONG BURNING FINALLY FANTASTIC

Finally Fantastic is a fleshy, moving and highly visual dance performance that wants to depict a togetherness, a togetherness right up to death, and how dying can coexist with the imaginative and joyful, the erotic and intimate.

Finally Fantastic can be seen as a meeting place and a common burial ground where a collection of people of different generations do, die and are together. The work has drawn inspiration from Ruth Coker Burk's cemetery in the US, which was established in the 80s during the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, at a time when the disease was called "the gay cancer". The cemetery was dedicated to homosexuals who died alone and abandoned because of the stigma of the virus. Today we see loneliness as another ongoing pandemic.

As in previous works I take cue from events from (queer-) history and create a choreography that speaks to the present. We die a death we wish to die, together!

The received support from Life Long Burning granted us more, well-needed, time to finish as well as tour the piece, and to do so in a respectful and stress-free manner.

I wanted to, and I believe succeeded in, create a meaningful experience for the artistic team as well as the audience. I wanted the room and the choreography to create an intimate atmosphere where the subject-matter and the dancing feels as meaningful for the performer as the spectator. This made us place the audience on two sides, facing each other, on the same level as the dancers. Making them part of the visual and scenographic landscape. This placement also enabled the performers to physically involve the audience in asking them to read a script, to act as a physical support for one of the dancers as well as assist a saxophone player by holding her sheet music.

Through the casting process and the project as a whole I got to meet, speak with and get to know an older generation. A generation with actual lived experience of the AIDS-epidemic. Something I am eternally grateful for. This cast and especially Peter Stenson and Henning Tönsberg attracted a new and more diverse audience, in terms of age but also experience of seeing dance, to MDT, a theatre I've worked with for the last couple of years.

I am immensely proud over the work we've done and the piece we've created and I hope that being a part of Life Long Burning will generate more touring as I wish for more people to experience Finally Fantastic.

MARCUS BALDEMAR