

TODAYulysses



foto Herman Sorgeloos

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Jan Ritsema and Bojana Cvejić

TODAYulysses invites the audience to journey along several lines of thought. Speech-acts are undertaken which do not refer to the world of images, but to the world of words themselves. Two bodies engaged with texts that stumble, fall, stutter, flow and try to extract themselves from the deadend of unequivocal meaning.

TODAYulysses is a discourse on the possibility of a theatre performance in an age when the use of signs is subject to inflation and the visual media have supreme power and colonise the conceptions we have of the world. Cvejić and Ritsema therefore reduce the theatre setting to its absolute elementaries: the audience, the actors' bodies, and words. A man and a woman, two genders, two different worlds and attitudes, which in the acting space enter into a sort of dialogue. Everything that happens occurs in our minds.
Gerald Siegmund, Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung

As a spectator, one feels in an increasingly tight spot in this play of alternating authenticity and staging. One cannot help actually being grateful to Jan Ritsema and Bojana Cvejić for approaching the question of the sense and possibility of theatre in such an utterly unspectacular way.

Silvia Stammen, Süddeutsche Zeitung

**DE (INTERNATIONALE) KEUZE
VAN DE ROTTERDAMSE SCHOUWBURG**



TODAYulysses

English spoken

Made and played by	Jan Ritsema and Bojana Cvejić
Light Design	Mark Dewitt
Technical support Rotterdam	Edwin van Steenbergen and Joop Wolters
Cooproduction	Kaaithheater (Brussels)

Jan Ritsema (Netherlands 1945) directed for a wide variety of Dutch and Belgian theatre companies, like Toneelgroep Amsterdam, Het Werkteater, Het Nationale Toneel, Mug met de gouden Tand, 't Barre Land, Het Kaaithheater, Dito Dito, performances ranging from the established repertory (Marlowe's 'Edward II', Mishima's 'Tropical Tree', Koltes' 'In the solitude of the cotton fields', Shakespeare's 'Hamlet', Heiner Müller's 'Philoktet' and 'The Mission'), through staged stories (James Joyce's 'The Dead', Virginia Woolf's 'The Years', Henry James' 'The beast in the jungle') and performances devised in collaboration with actors (Werktheater: 'You are my mother'* and 'Adio*', Childrensperformance: 'The Leavetaking*', Kaaithheater: 'April S.a.i.d.', 'Verwantschappen', and 'TODAY ulysses'* (2002), in the last three he performed himself) to theatre debuts of poets, novelists and essayists (Peter Verburgt 'Wittgenstein Incorporated*', Peter Verhelst 'Maria Salomé' and Stefan Hertmans 'Kopnaad').

Bojana Cvejić (Yugoslavia, 1975) has directed several opera performances ('Bastien&Bastienne', 'El Retablo de Maese Pedro', 'L'Histoire du soldat' etc.), which were shown on major music and theatre festivals in Yugoslavia. As a co-founder and member of performance group Walking Theory (Belgrade) she made performances ('Hyperreal Allegory', 'DreamOpera'), festivals, exhibitions, magazine. Since 'Verwantschappen', she has been collaborating with Jan Ritsema.

Thanks: Marianne van Kerkhoven and Jonathan Burrows.

TODAYulysses was made for Spielart Festival (Munich) and Kaaithheater (Brussels) and was (or will be) also performed in Munich, Bologna, Brussels, Frankfurt, Zagreb, Ljubljana, Novi Sad, Lisbon, Oslo, Trondheim, Bergen.

De [Internationale] Keuze van de Rotterdamse Schouwburg wordt mede mogelijk gemaakt met steun van September in Rotterdam 2002, Stichting Sponsorfonds Rotterdamse Schouwburg en Fonds voor Podiumprogrammering en Marketing