

INVITED GHOSTS

(confronted by the ghosts of my own stupidity)

A Phil Hayes / First Cut Productions coproduction with Fabrik Theater - Rote Fabrik Zürich,
Le Grütli - Centre de production et de diffusion des Arts vivants Geneva & Südpol Luzern.

with Phil Hayes and Taimashoe



A man appears on a snow covered stage.
He has travelled far carrying a stolen Über Eats bag.
He is also carrying a gun and a book of contacts, but we don't know that yet.
Watching him, a young woman sits improvising at a piano.
Dogs bark in the distance, cars speed by on a distant highway...

After the stops, starts and restarts of the recent past, INVITED GHOSTS will mark a return to stage performance after a break of over two years. It will also be the first production in an intended series of alternating projects to be produced in coproduction with the Fabriktheater and the Gessnerallee Zürich over the following four years.

INVITED GHOSTS will feature live music from Gessica Zinni aka Taimashoe.

INVITED GHOSTS begins as an epic poem, a saga:

Like an injured horse drifting in the snow with no lines to follow, no paths to lead, I have come....

He tells of the things he has seen, the people he has met and the disturbing events that lay behind him.

The words are interrupted by a phonecall.

We think the phonecall is a joke - an interruption for the performer - but it is an invitation to submerge into a story - into a kind of acting, into a kind of a past.

The man has arranged to meet somebody here who doesn't turn up.

The phone call ends.

He sings a song.

Another phonecall - this time he phones someone.

He appears to be trying to make good on things from the past.

More Poem, More Songs, More Phonecalls

He eats from the stolen Über Eats bag

He is bleeding.

Phonecalls & Lies

A recorded voice interrupts;

„That was how I felt at the time, or how I remember that I felt then.

But that was then.. Of course I'm remembering all this with what I know now, which is a lot or maybe just more than I knew then. The short answer is that if this could be explained, there would be no point in telling it to you . Our world needs mystery, don't you think?.

Don't use your brain, use your heart and body.“

He is bleeding and appears to have been shot.

Is he dying or is he already dead- a ghost?

He thought he came here wanting revenge, but is starting to realise he is actually after forgiveness or maybe even just some acceptance would do.

Is there is a way forward though this?

Should we not try to separate cruel and bad acts from the person who has carried them out?

We can condemn the act but can we be merciful to the one who committed them ... especially when the person who needs forgiveness is oneself?

Confronted by the ghosts of our own stupidity, do we not have at our core an essential goodness, but that over time this goodness has been loaded up with layers of suffering that lead ultimately to all manner of fucked-up behaviour....

Are we not mostly good people who are capable of doing bad things — all of us — and could forgiveness, which goes against all our instincts, actually be the crucial component that can usher us out of the darkness and back to the world?

If a performance piece could have the structure of a song...
INVITED GHOSTS is an attempt to be both small and epic. Combining a desire for a stripped back style of performance in the here and now with a wish for poetry and song. A moment in time, like one scene or chapter of a long ancient saga combined with a recent interest in true crime analysis and the statistics of truth and deception.
INVITED GHOSTS will be looking at layers of storytelling, on stage, offstage and looking again at that painful falsehood that we call acting.

Team

Phil Hayes: Direction, Concept, Performance
Taimashoe: Musik, Performance*
Jen Rosenblit, Dominic Oppliger: Artistic Advisors**
Sina Knecht: Stage
Patrik Rimann: Light
Susanne Affolter: Sound
Lukas Piccolin: Production

Invited Ghosts' invited ghosts:: Vic Chessnutt, Ben Gazzara, Maggie Nelson...

Rehearsals

4.-17. Juli 2022
19. September -2. Oktober 2022
10. – 30. Oktober 2022
31. Oktober – 9. November

Performances

Premiere 10. November (tbc) Fabriktheater - Rote Fabrik, Zürich November 2022.
Performances at Le Grütli Geneva and Südpol Luzern in 2023.