

bittersweet but true

a solo performance by Bheki Ndlovu



synopsis

The actor is brought to the stage as a statue, standing still for a while. Pictures of human zoos are displayed on a projector. Music playing. Slowly the statue starts to move. The music gets more intense, and the actor's movement develops into a story expressing joy, anger, pain, silence, until getting out of breath. He crowns himself - proud and self-aware. The royalty enjoys soulful percussion instruments in singing and dancing enhancing his power and status. Spectators have an opportunity to look at him and come to terms with horrors of their past. This performance shows a need for unpacking colonial realities.

music: composed by the performer, partly recorded, partly live

video: pictures and interview

stage: minimalistic

form: solo performance

duration: 60 min

team

Solo performance by Bheki Ndlovu. He is choreographer, dancer, director, composer and performer in personal union. www.bhekindlovu.org

critical friend: Mo Wa Baile

supporting organization: Berner Rassismus Stammtisch, www.berner-rassismusstammtisch.ch

Bheki Ndlovu got invited by Rassismus Stammtisch to create a solo performance. That's how the idea started to grow.

About Rassismus Stammtisch: "The Stammtisch is a transdisciplinary initiative that aims to make the anti-racist knowledge of BIPOC in public and visible through an artistically, scientifically and politically informed process. Through these cultural-political interventions, a counter-public -- critical of racism -- is strengthened, in which BIPOC and people with a migration background have the power to define their (racism) experiences."

show

Tojo Theatre Bern, 10th september 2022

...further shows possible.

statement of the artist Bheki Ndlovu

"The aim is to question the stereotypes and the invisible cages and barriers that still exist today. How are they linked to that dark historical episode? Where do judgmental observations still exist? How are people of color still objectified as „exotic creatures“ rather than seen as human beings with their own perspective? How can people of color become agents of their own story? I want to raise my voice with a matter of course, that I know who I am, and I know where I belong. You need to work on yourself to get to terms with that. In this, the sovereignty of interpretation lies solely with me. There is a need for unpacking those past realities. Only the ruthless diagnosis of those past times, brings us further in dialogue about now and our future. When does it stop? What is it going to take to stop? What role are we taking as people to shift to the awareness and to put energy into unpacking the hurtful past? I believe that only then healing can manifest itself in daily interactions and we can start helping each other to reach the balance of human consciousness."

research sources:

www.mirsindvoda.ch/voelkerschauen-in-der-schweiz/

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