We meet in paradise

A theatrical collage of escape and exile

The soundscapes of the city whittle away as we are drawn to a wooden box roaming around. The journey was long, lasting days, through unknown lands. It searches for a place to arrive. Speechless, they emerge. Where are they? Exile is the name of their destination. Asylum is their hope. They tell tales from their escape and arrival, dreams and fears and how they start their lives anew.

For this project, TheatreFragile met with refugees and support workers to gather and collect their thoughts, experiences, inner struggles and stories in order to provide an insightful and unexpected image away from the heated and alienating debate.

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"We Meet in Paradise" is the first production of TheatreFragile and
in the new edited version 2016 their seventh collective production.

This new production with a research and rehearsal period with participants
will be adapted to the location or venue.

For a poetic engagement in public space

Escape. Exile. Asylum. Welcome culture. Statistics. Barriers. Border Control. Deportation. Are all words that have seized our everyday vocabulary and have become part of the norm over the years. We are inundated with pictures of war, people on the escape, images of overfilled inflatable boats on the Mediterranean and the exhausted faces at European train stations won't let up.
And then?
What happens to these people that come here?
Through the masses how can one find the individual faces and stories?
How much space are we, as Europeans, ready to give?

TheatreFragile gathered stories from refugees and aid workers to bring the unheard voices to the central focus in a theatrical moment. In this multi layered interactive performance with mask and sound collages, the complex issues of exile are poetically presented. Offering a sensory and interactive performance experience to
a wider and broader audience.

Approach to participants

Through interviews, mask performance workshops, interventions in public spaces individuals are incorporated into the creative process. For the performance, the participants form part of the mask ensemble. It creates a space where skin color, nationality, origin, social standing and language backgrounds are processed in an open environment.

This production with a research and rehearsal period with participants can be adapted to the location or venue.

TheatreFragile, Mask Theatre in Public Spaces

TheatreFragile works on productions relevant to social change under the involvement and integration of the public realm. The team of "We meet in Paradise" has been working, touring and staging this production since 2008 in various approaches to further develop the creative process. The central and key theme of this project is exchange. Throughout the research phase TheatreFragile meets individuals who can relate or are involved with this topic in order to gain knowledge and perspective. Interactive installations, intensive interview work, open presentations and rehearsals offer a different view to this topic and the multifaceted layers and circumstances that surround it. The performance asks the audience to engage and are welcomed to become active spectators and participants in the installation.

This approach leads the TheaterFragile to activities in the field of cultural education. In recent years, intergenerational and intercultural workshops have become an integral part of the work.

The mask evokes curiosity, fascination and empathy from the spectator. The audience is invited to witness an external and internal examination of the very core human essence.

TheatreFragile is based in Berlin and Cologne and have a production studio at Hangar 21, in Detmold.

Press Reviews

"And so many wished that this was not the conclusion of the theatre piece that this lightness and levity was possible everyday."

"At the beginning there was a palpable stillness of concentration. At the end a cheerful bustle with music, dance, discussion and a curious exploration."

<div align="right">Westfälischer Anzeiger, Hamm, Germany</div>

"The multinational theatre company from the European Network IN-SITU, TheatreFragile, asserts a viable human utopia with their piece, "We meet in Paradise". Poetic and tender scenes are filled with a myriad of touching details. This is street theatre at its best. Gray figures emerge out of a black box. The frightened wanderers searching for asylum eventually invite the spectators to join them for a meal of warm soup.
Poetic and moving scenes are filled with touching details wrapped in the blanket of night; nevertheless, the scenes offered by TheatreFragile are full of color and warmth. Truly great street theatre."

<div align="right">Die Kleine Zeitung Graz, Austria</div>

„In cubes, the exiles of TheatreFragile bring familiar shores to new lands. TheatreFragile confronts the problem of migration and integration. Two featureless figures materialize from a black box, trying as quietly as possible to gain a foothold; however, despite their efforts, they do not remain undiscovered. Here the trepidation of a life in exile is poetically examined, all while never giving up on common human characteristics."

<div align="right">Die Kronenzeitung Graz, Austria</div>

„TheatreFragile was a favorite amongst many street theatre connoisseurs. The piece told the stories of migrants very empathetically, yes almost endearingly."

<div align="right">Täglicher Anzeiger, Holzminden, Germany</div>

„Migration can also be a gift"

<div align="right">Oerol, Terschelling, The Netherlands</div>

„A glimpse of brotherhood and solidarity..."

<div align="right">Le Journal de Saone et Loire, Chalon sur Sâone, France</div>

We meet in paradise

**„We meet in paradise" is a production from TheatreFragile
under der artistic direction of Luzie Ackers and Marianne Cornil.**

Play: Marianne Cornil/Nicole Ratjen & Luzie Ackers/Zeljko Marovic & the workshop ensemble
Masks: Luzie Ackers
Interviews, sound collage: Marianne Cornil
Music and composition: Merzouga
Dramaturgy: Laurence Barbasetti
Mask coaching: Dana Schmidt
Set design: Werner Wallner
Mask building: Luzie Ackers & Nicole Ratjen
Costume: Manon Gignoux
Installation: Janna Schaar & Luzie Ackers
Video: Anna-Maria Schneider
Media technology: Florian Mönks
Direction of the workshop ensemble: Marianne Cornil

Production Management: Henrike Beran
Administration: Doren Gräfendorf
Public relations: Laurence Barbasetti & Marianne Cornil
Graphics: Silke Meyer
Photo: Walter Meutzner

Premiere:

Second version: 14. Mai 2016 Europäisches Straßentheaterfestival Bildstörung, Detmold, NRW (D)
First Version: 2008 La Strada Graz

Coproduction

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