



“Den fri kjærlighets by»

“The City of Free Love”

by Edvard Munch

Director and producer : Tormod Lindgren

We would like to propose a guest performance of the puppet performance “Den fri kjærlighets by”

About the play :

In 1905 Munch worked on a little play, a satirical comedy called “The City of Free Love”, which was intended as a settling of accounts with the aging Bohemian milieu in Kristiania (Oslo) and its old ideal regarding free love. The text was never published, or performed until we made the world premiere at the Munch museum in may 2017.

The main character, the singer, is a poor artist that arrives at the gate of the “city of free love” in search of unconditional love and happiness. Once inside he meets women with money, power and freedom, among other the “Dollar-princess” and the “Bee-queen” that takes mercy on the poor, but talented artist. But these women are maybe too free for his taste, they want to possess him, and the singer ends up ill, rejecting their obsessional love. This leads to a persecution, not only by the women, but the rest of the society, police and justice. In the final scene, the singer is imprisoned and accused for having insulted their love and caused general disorder.

The text is also unintentionally an intimate portrait of the artist life in the periode. Munch had just dramatically ended a long relationship with Tulla Larsen, his fiancée, muse and financial support. In the period the press was often writing satirical articles about his work and life, and many of his old friends among the bohemians let him down . His troubles were often enforced by his drinking problems and unstable mental state.

Munch as an author :

In periods Munch moved in literary circles among poets, novelists, journalists and writers, such as Strindberg, Przybyshevski, Ibsen, Juel and Brandes. The published texts span a number of genres and many were written out of necessity and printed in different newspapers, magazines, exhibition catalogues and other publications. There are also scattered texts of a more quaint nature, which resemble the humoresque and causerie genres; and even an advertisement text and a political commentary. The play “Den fri kjærlighets by” shows influence of Strindbergs dream plays as well the absurd theatre. Munch himself called it a surreal play.



About the performance : TITLE : “Den fri kjærlighets by”

Director, producer and puppet designer/maker : Tormod Lindgren

Text : Edvard Munch and Aina Villanger

Composer and pianist : Rolf Gupta

Actors : Gisle Hass, Christina Ørbekk Nikolaisen, Tessa Lepistö, Cecilie Solberg Knudsrød

Number of performers on stage : 5

The performance last for 1h10 minutes without pause.

Category : Puppet performance

Audience : The performance is suitable adults and young from 12-13 years with interest in art, theatre, music and literature.

Music : There is music especially written and performed live by Rolf Gupta. A piano must be put at disposal.

Language : The play is performed in Norwegian, and when performed abroad, with projection of subtitles.

Space : The performance can be played in non-theatrical spaces like auditoriums, exhibition spaces as well as in theatres.

Audience : The audience will preferably be seated on three sides round the stage/table, as indicated on drawing.

Scenography: A table of 2.3 x 1.2m. The table is the “stage” on which the actors manipulate the puppets. Behind the table is a panel with several painted backdrops 2.40 x 2.40 m

Costumes : No need for a dresser.



- Lights : I does not require stage lighting when performed in auditoriums /exhibition spaces where there is daylight or that are well lit.
- Installation : All the scenographic elements are mobile, light and quick to install. Calculated installation time : one hour.
- The puppets : There is 24 puppets. The actors manipulate several types and sizes of puppets. Most of the puppets are 3-dimensional with several ways of manipulation, other are 2-dimensional paperfigures. The design of the puppets is inspired by Munch's drawings and paintings.
In this sketch we see some of the main characters in the play ; the "swine"- Gunnar Heiberg, the "bee-queen"- Oda Krogh, the "Modern Moses"- Christian Krogh, as well as Munch himself, recognisable in the text as the "singer".

Participating artists :

Tormod Lindgren who is the director, producer and puppet designer/maker has worked as scenographer and costume designer on 70 performances in Norway and around the world. He has a master in scenography from Saint Martins-London/ Damu-Prague, and a BA from Khio-Oslo. He was awarded the "Heddaprisen" for @lice, at Riksteateret in Norway in 2009.

Aina Villanger who is dramaturg and author writes poetry, prose and stage text. She made her debut at edition oktober with «Langsang».

Rolf Gupta is trained both as a composer and conductor. He has been artistic director and principal conductor of the Norwegian Radio Orchestra, Norwegian Baroque Orchestra and Kristiansand Symphony Orchestra. He has worked with orchestras like BBC Symphony Orchestra, MDR Leipzig, the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, the, Orchestra della Toscana, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Remix Ensemble, Avanti! and Ensemble InterContemporain.

Gisle Hass - is a puppetplayer, dancer and actor having worked with several norwegian puppet companies as Riksteatret. He toured intensively with the performance "Hunger"- based on Hamsun, a production by Pickled image/Tinkerting.

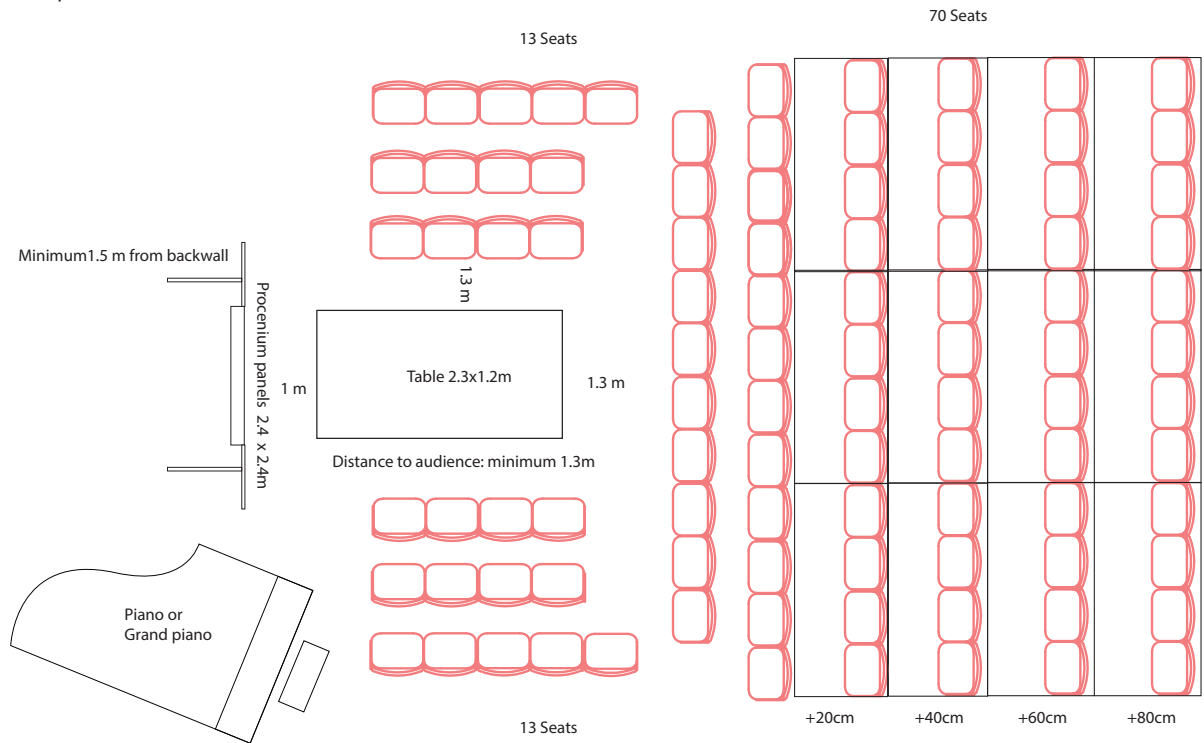
Cecilie Solberg Knudsrød - is a actor, puppeteer and dancer trained at London school of performing arts. She has worked with renowned artist like Yngvil Aspeli and Karen Røyse Kjelland. She also runs her own company calle Krutt og Kamfer.

Tessa Lepistö - has worked extensively in the field of performing arts. In addition to puppet theatre, her repertoire includes acting, performance art and dance. She has worked many years with Kattas figurteater, Anne Helgesen.

Christina Ørbekk Nikolaisen - is trained as actor at the Academy of stageart Fredrikstad, and worked with several Norwegian theatre companies as well as film with Ellen Ugelstad og Ane Lan



Proposal for audience seating
Munch performance



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