

Finance

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Exposing your real face

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Tomorrow at 9 p.m. the premiere of Betontanc performance *Show your face!* in Stara elektrarna

The Slovenian premiere of the performance *Show your face!*, a common project of the Slovenian group Betontanc and the Latvian artistic collective Umka.LV directed by Matjaž Pograjc, follows the world premiere, which took place on 25 May in Riga. For Betontanc, "an engaged, controversial, politically incorrect, offensive, sarcastic theatre" as defined by Matjaž Pograjc who has been its director since 1990, this represents a continuation of its international cooperation. After the project *Everybody for Berlusconi* (2004) in cooperation with the Dutch theatre group Jonghollandia, they joined forces with the young Latvian artists Umka.LV, masters of puppetry and object theatre for adults.

By intertwining physical with object theatre, which gives life and personality to ordinary objects through an animation technique, the two groups have created a multimedia performance about a repressive system that creates people without faces, without identities. As explained by Pograjc, they leaned on black stains of 20th century history, common to both the Slovenians and the Latvians, from the Second World War to genocides and nuclear weapon use.

The (anti)hero of the show, performed in English, is an animated Babygro of a three-year-old child called Little Branko which symbolises a small, unimportant person, a man without a face, who travels through "history's mistakes" of 20th century. On his way, Branko meets different people, who were – like him – unable to change the world, because they were on one hand too courageous and on the other hand not courageous enough. According to Betontanc, the problem of a final revelation of the human society lies in the fact that nobody pays attention to fundamental parts of history's mistakes. We all know what happens if we break the basic parts of a nucleus but we don't know what happens if we break the basic parts of a soul ("because the capital is not interested in soul recovery, the capital is getting fat on people's stupidity").

Subtle music, performed live, was written for the performance by a Slovenian electronic duo Silence in cooperation with a Latvian saxophonist and percussionist Ugis Vitins. After today's premiere, the performance will be repeated tomorrow, on Saturday and on Sunday, and it will also figure in the programme of the theatre-dance festival Mladi levi in August. The producers of the performance, which was created with financial support of the Culture 2000 programme, are Bunker and New Theatre Institute of Latvia.