

## ***If You're Happy* – the premiere**

RADIO SLOVENIA 1, February 27, 2016, "DANES DO 13H", 1:18 p.m.

Last night, the packed Old Power Station hosted the premiere of the performance *If You're Happy*, produced by Bunker Institute and co-created by a team of stage artists under the directorial guidance of Andrej Jus. Among the audience was Petra Tanko.

PETRA TANKO: It is really interesting how the global and the local meet and merge through a certain symptom, be it The Big Black Wolf riding a horse with no head and no spine, on the horseshoes of fear, be it real or paraphrased political speech or a children's song. In the performance *If You're Happy*, all this, so close and yet so far away from us, reveals the strategies and tactics to make a group or masses of people controllable. But the performance takes a critical perspective and is able to call for reflection and action in order not to find ourselves caught in the wolf's fangs like the hen, the duck, the goose and the ram; or even worse, to devastate everything with our pals and then laugh contentedly at the devastation all around us. A very interesting substance has been introduced by the creators, including the performers, storytellers Ana Duša and Špela Frljic, dancer Nataša Živković and musician Polona Janežič, who shaped it into an effective theatrical narrative, full of metaphors, each of them in her own media, through movement, dance, or music and its lyrics. A very poetic and highly critical performance, which was given its final contour by the director, Andrej Rus, is set in the context of a state celebration, with all the necessary symbols, flowers and podiums that change their function if necessary (made by set designer Urša Vidic). It is structured in a series of so-called artistic pieces, intertwined by means of stage setting and dramaturgy into a sincere, intense and engaged stage work, spiced-up with humour from beginning to end.