

IL CORSO

- * open-air-theatre for 25 actors, acrobats and musicians
- * based on the "Book of Questions" by Chilean poet Pablo Neruda
- * Premiere: Art Festival Weimar 2001 (Kunstfest Weimar)
- * winner of the Street Theatre Festival Holzminden 2002

The poems from the "Book of Questions" by Chilean poet and winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature Pablo Neruda (1904 - 1973) along with the music form the ostinato of the performance. In these 74 two-line verses raising 316 puzzling questions he frequently and ingeniously masks the desire to fathom being at a meta-level in naïve unconcern.

The volume of poems was created in the last few weeks of the poet's life.

Production

The production IL CORSO is a parable about man's search for immortality.

The conflict between the intensity and lightness of the moment on the one hand and the desire to capture that moment on the other hand - a recurring theme - is depicted here in a special way. A person's creative process, in this case that of a poet, is developed from a youthful joy at one's own potency and capabilities into a narrowing and limiting fixation on the question: Can I express reality in words that will outlast me?

In this hopeless attempt to pin down the moment - reality - in words, to elevate himself beyond his increasingly strong fixation on success, renown and prestige, beyond the wish to stand out from the crowd, the poet loses track of life and himself.

He indulges in omnipotent fantasies and skids relentlessly into a crisis. In doing so, he loses all potential to act. The moment, which is filled with horror at his not being able to do anything, proves to be an opportunity. This experience provides him with an insight of the reality and restriction of his being. Transformed in a certain way, he evolves and readies himself for a new round in the cycle of life.

The action theatre group Pan.Optikum recounts this parable in surreal images. The individual figures represent the various aspects of one and the same person.

Useful instructions for organizers

- * Open-air performance with fireworks for large venues in inner-city areas. (Also possible in parks with paved surface.) The entire venue is the set of the performance. Bolting to the ground is not necessary.
- * The audience stands and moves around the entire performance venue (except in the blocked off pyrotechnics area in accordance with safety regulations).
- * All of the artists perform above the heads of the spectators so that visibility is ensured. Mobile objects move through the audience.

Site requirements:

Optimum: 45 x 90 metres; absolute minimum: 25 x 60 metres - depending on the safety regulations of the respective authorities and the fire department

Number of spectators:

2000 - 8000 spectators

Equipment:

All of the equipment for light and sound as well as pyrotechnics is brought by PAN.OPTIKUM in Europe. In countries to which the stage materials for the performance are transported by ship, the event holder provides the equipment for light, sound and pyrotechnics as specified in a detailed list.