

cie. toula limnaios

»volto umano«

- the human face



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»volto umano«

- the human face

in »volto umano«, violence infiltrates the micro-society of the interpreters, oozes in and out of their bodies. the piece oscillates between the 'little mis-deeds' in society, from which the merciless emerges. it embodies just how thin the blanket of civilization is when ethics and morals fall victim to barbarism.

»volto umano« reveals human weakness, thus aiming straight into the heart of the present gradually distancing itself from humanity. it reveals the hubris of humans. everything can change from one moment to the next and for it to plummet into calamity.

when violence permeates our lives – what face will emerge?

concept/ choreography: toulia limnaios

music: ralf r. ollertz

dance/ creation: rafael abreu, daniel afonso, francesca bedin, laura beschi,

félix deepen, karolina kardasz, amandine lamouroux, hironori sugata

lighting design: felix grimm

stage/ costumes: antonia limnaios, toulia limnaios

choreographic assistance: ute pliestermann

light/stage technics: domenik engemann, jan römer, leo tsirigotis

public relations: sarah böhmer

touring/ cooperations: marie schmieder

length: 70 minutes

premiere: 15 june 2018

tours: germany (bremerhaven), italy (catania), nicaragua (managua), canada (montreal)

the cie. toulia limnaios is supported by the senate department for culture and social cohesion, berlin.

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press review »volto umano«

»toula limnaios finds oppressive images...in »volto umano« there is no affection, only conditioning and manipulation. she contrasts the group actions with emotional solos... there is no more shelter from the inhuman... the dancers inspire with their expressive rage and physical vehemence. a stirring evening.»

(tagesspiegel sandra luzina)

»with her piece »volto umano«, greek choreographer toula limnaios seems to be expanding the boundaries of her analysis of society, originally begun with »momentum«, to no longer depict the microcosm of a single man and the creatures that inhabit his thoughts, but an entire community that is becoming increasingly individualistic and increasingly violent. as the audience enters, the dancers are already positioned on the stage, where we see an unsettling pile of puppets stacked horizontally to form a tower.

as the performance begins, the dance also seems to pick up where it left off in »momentum«. a couple is having a 'discussion', a man is moving amongst the general indifference of those watching him with detachment. a group of people seem to be getting drunk, some men are dragging women around with violence, others are being held on leashes, there are people choking, even breathing depends on other people.

from beginning to end there are powerful images that point to critical situations, social issues and problems of our time that stick in the audience's memory.

a raw story told with the distinctive style of choreographer toula limnaios, who manages to contrast the violence of the actions, the grace and elegance of her dance.

(campadidanza, nicola campanelli)



trailer »volto umano«

full length »volto umano«



biographies

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toula limnaios (choreographer / artistic director)

toula limnaios (*1963, athens/ greece) is trained in classical and modern dance, m. alexander and laban technique as well as music and followed a dance education in brussels, she worked as an interpreter with claudio bernardo, régine chopinot and as an assistant with pierre droulers. later she continued her education at the folkwang hochschule in essen, where after a short time she became a member of the folkwang tanzstudio under the direction of pina bausch. from 1995-2003 she danced in live improvisations with the musicians konrad bauer and peter kowald. 2007/2008 she was guest professor for choreography at the hochschule ernst busch in berlin and was guest choreographer at various theatres. since 1996 she has founded and directed the cie. toula limnaios together with ralf r. ollertz.

ralf r. ollertz (music)

ralf r. ollertz (*1964, mönchengladbach/ germany) studied composition, electroacoustic music and conducting in italy and at the folkwang hochschule in essen. in addition to chamber and orchestral music, he has also written electroacoustic music and radio plays, for which he has received numerous international awards and grants. in 2002 he composed the short opera »carcrash« with willy daum for the state operas in hanover and stuttgart. tours, radio and television productions have taken him through europe, south america, the usa, japan, australia and africa. since 1996 he has founded and directs the cie. toula limnaios together with toula limnaios.

rafael abreu (dance)

rafael abreu (*1991, guarulhos/ brazil) has an education in classical ballet and contemporary dance from various schools in the city of são paulo. he was part of numerous companies and projects: among them quasar cia de dança (goiania), punto de inflexion (mexico city), cia de dança anderson couto, and the são paulo-based raça cia de dança, cia danças claudia de souza, companhia de danças de diadema, and virtual cia de dança. he joined cie. toula limnaios in 2024.

daniel afonso (dance)

daniel afonso (*1981, las palmas/ spain) completed his training at the royal conservatory in madrid. he worked for 10&10, tenerifedanzalab in tenerife, at the staats theater braunschweig with jan pusch as well as with yossi berg & oded graf and douglas thorpe. in the company chameleon (uk), he danced for choreographers such as anthony missen, gemma nixon and john goddard as well as for dmt (nl) with judith van der klink. daniel also teaches and develops projects of his own. he is a member of the cie. toula limnaios since 2015.

francesca bedin (dance)

francesca bedin (*1990, vicenza/ italy) studied contemporary dance, tap dance, percussion and drums in italy and abroad (tanzfabrik, marameo, danseateliers, eastman...). she joined sinedomo group by l. tonin and started her professional career with naturalis labor by l. padovani, s. bertoncelli and with esklan art's factory by e. silgoner.

by the collaboration with the choreographer g. menti she won the 1. prize and the eastmanprize at 22nd int. solo tanz theater festival. francesca is member of the cie. toula limnaios since july 2020.

laura beschi (dance)

laura beschi (* 1993, como / italy). she felt passionate in dance and performing arts since very young age. she graduated in sead in 2017. in the past years she collaborated with different choreographers and companies in europe such as ryan mason, jelka milic, rakesh suresh, eduardo torroja (ultima vez), francisco cordova, manuel ronda, michikazu matsune, tanz company elio gervasi, nicola galli performing art, along others. since february 2020 she is a member of cie. toula limnaios.

félix deepen (dance)

félix deepen (*1996 brussels/ belgium) graduated from the rudra béjart school lausanne in 2016. he danced for various companies throughout Europe including dddd (nl) it dansa (spn) and zfinmalta (mlt). he has danced and worked on pieces by international choreographers such as sidi larbi cherkaoui, akram khan, alexander ekman, emanuel gat, paolo mangiola, ohad naharin, rafael bonachela, sergiu matis, lorena nogal, roy assaf, tânia carvalho, jacopo godani and sasha amaya. he is a member of cie. toula limnaios since 2024.

karolina kardasz (dance)

karolina kardasz (*1994, bialystok/ poland) graduated at the academy of theater arts at the dance theater department in kraków. she did internships at francesca selva company and irene k company. since 2018, she was a member of irene k company, where she has created several pieces with different choreographers. as a freelance dancer, karolina created her own short pieces, which were presented at festivals in different countries. she likes to share her approach and way of moving while leading different workshops. since august 2023 she is a member of the cie. toula limnaios.

amandine lamouroux (dance)

amandine lamouroux (*1994, toulouse/ france) studied in epsedanse, montpellier and centre chorégraphique james carles, toulouse. she received her state diploma as a contemporary dance teacher. then she danced with roberto zappalà's colectivo, amos ben tal, manfredi perego, moritz ostruschnjak, sita ostheimer and sara ducat's company. since august 2023 she is a member of the cie. toula limnaios.

hironori sugata (dance)

hironori sugata (*1968, osaka/ japan) studied dance in the eguti otoy company with fujiwara etuko and sumi masayuki. in japan, he worked at spacdance and danced the repertoire of jean-claude gallotta. in 2000, he moved to europe and danced with emio greco, vicente saez, bud blumenthal, the cie. tandem, with nardi morgan and the theater der klänge. from 2003 until 2004, hironori sugata worked with jean-guillaume weis, the teatri del vento and with silke z. he was a dancer/performer for the cie. toula limnaios from 2005 until 2010 and rejoined the ensembles as a permanent member in 2013.

felix grimm (light design)

felix grimm (*1983, güstrow/ germany) is a lighting, video and sound designer and technical production manager for theater, dance, performance and corporate events. he worked for schlossplatztheater / junge oper berlin, total brutal / nir de volff, berlin society for new music, chico mello, naoko tanaka, bignotwendigkeit, monster truck, novoflot, theater koblenz, perform(d)ance and major german event technology service providers. he has been working with the cie. toula limnaios as lighting designer since 2014 and since 2020 he is the technical director and lighting designer of the company.





the cie. toula limnaios is an ensemble for contemporary dance, founded in brussel in 1996 by choreographer and performer toula limnaios and composer ralf r. ollertz. a year later the company moved to berlin. in 2001, they were awarded the »meeting neuer tanz« prize. in 2004, their beckett trilogy was rearranged into a documentary entitled »atemzug« produced by zdf/arte. their own production house halle opened in 2003 and is an internationally connected theatre.

the company gets funding from the city of berlin department for culture and europe since 2005 and was selected by the fonds darstellende künste to receive conceptual funding for »leading ensembles in the field of independent theater and dance« from 2008 until 2010. in 2012, they were awarded the »george tabori prize«.

in addition to her artistic work, she is committed not only to innovative working structures, but also to the outreach and distribution of dance in our society. the cie. toula limnaios ensemble presents 60-70 performances every year and works with 18 salaried employees, who are supported by an even larger number of closely associated freelancers. with its flexible, lean, but highly effective structure and in co-production with international partners, the company continuously produces ensemble work of exceptional quality, making them one of the most successful ensembles for contemporary dance today.

as a representative of the german dance scene for the goethe institute and the federal foreign office, they present their repertoire in europe and worldwide since 2005. since 2014 the company is institutionally funded by the senate department for culture and social cohesion, berlin.

the cie. toula limnaios presents dance that is awake, critical and bold – with concern for humankind, made by and for people.

cie. toula limnaios

press reviews

»nothing that is not an excerpt of the heart, finds its expression in the work of toula limnaios, whereby the originality of this artist, a perfectionist of excesses, may lie therein. her excesses focus on mankind, the mysteries of his origins, the fire of his future. «
(saison de la danse, jean-marie gourreau)

»one of the most renowned choreographers of the european dance scene has created a ›tosca‹ a lasting and impressive piece of the contemporary dance. the spectators were excited and touched. the magnificent final tableau swept the audience off their feet into ecstatic rounds of applause. «
(frankfurter allgemeine zeitung)

»limnaios, one of the most striking figures in the contemporary dance for years, remains at the heights of her artistry«
(neuer zürcher zeitung)

»the spectators get to see somnambulistic images, poetically sensitive and intimate impressions in which real and surreal interweave. the word is about toula limnaios, a choreographer born in athens who has made berlin her home since 1997. the pieces she created with her company make people drift-away... for the images are really magical. the experts know that toula limnaios with her choreographies takes a special place in the vast dance scene in germany, an exceptional place. what she turns into dance is seen nowhere and she herself follows no trends. «
(rbb-kulturradio)

»the cie. toula limnaios creates dance that penetrates the soul... visually stunning and intense, atmospheric journeys into the abysses and posterity. toula limnaios managed to find a very unique power of expression in her pieces. the choreographer's source of inspiration are often master works, world literature, century-scores. she overwrites the classics with her own aesthetics, her own vocabulary of the movement and creates psychologically well-tared contemporary pieces. the company is admirably diligent, and its theatre is one of the most popular addresses for contemporary dance. «
(tagesspiegel)

»the company presents an unusually successful story: here, almost every show is sold out, the cie. toula limnaios managed to gain its own audience, not necessarily with an affinity for dance, that follows the artists from a production to production filled with trust and enthusiasm. «
(goethe-institute)

»the auditorium is packed. the first couple begins, the second joins in a way that takes your breath away. responsible for this frenzy of feelings and images are toula limnaios und ralf ollertz. he creates the acoustic visual realms that she causes to explode on stage with help of her dance ensemble. 39 productions in 19 years, moreover numerous revivals and world tours demonstrate their unbelievable symbiosis and productivity. making her one of the most important choreographers for contemporary dance today.

choreographer toula limnaios is one of those who, together with composer ralf r. ollertz, ensure that this art form of dance continues to retain its unmitigated vitality. for almost 20 years now, toula limnaios has headed her own company, which bears her name. and with her small, but excellent, international ensemble, she brings contemporary dance onto the stage – in berlin, where the ensemble is based and across the world.

those, who have the privilege of seeing the cie. toula limnaios dance, experience a celebration of emotion. the intensity of the movements and the dancers' feelings enthrall the viewer. the audience senses the physicality, becomes part of the dance. over and over again, in every single performance. «
(zdf aspekte, stefanie heidbrink)

»toula limnaios is known to reframe classical works of art and literature into sensational dance pieces with a strong focus on human connections. in ›tempus fugit‹, from intricate floor-work to flying across the stage, the agile bodies of the dancers were well-adapted to limnaios' highly charged movement vocabulary. «
(berlinartlink, beatrix joyce)

cie. toula limnaios

cie. toula limnaios at a glance

1996	founding in brussel: artist in residence/ theatre l' l
1997	moving of the company to berlin
2003	opening of own theater HALLE Tanzbühne Berlin
2005 - 2013	basic fundings by city of berlin - department for culture and europe
2008 - 2010	conceptual funding by fonds darstellende künste e.v.
2012	george tabori award
since 2014	institutional funding by the city of berlin
since 2016	cultural ambassador of the german ministry of foreign affairs
2021	jubilee 25-years cie. toula limnaios
2022	publication of the illustrated book »cie. toula limnaios« by kettler verlag

members:

artistic director	toula limnaios
choreography/ dance	
artistic director	
music/ production	ralf r. ollertz
ensemble dance	rafael abreu daniel afonso laura beschi francesca bedin félix deepen priscilla fiuza karolina kardasz amandine lamouroux hironori sugata

assistant	alice gaspari
public relations	sarah böhmer
touring/ cooperations	marie schmieder
technical director/ light design	felix grimm
light/ stage technic	domenik engemann, jan römer
graphic design	cyan - graphisches büro
video	giacomo corvaia
costumes	toula limnaios
accounting/ controlling	branko gejic
resilience dispatcher	paul tinsley

venues

in berlin	akademie der künste, hebbel-theater, HALLE Tanzbühne Berlin
national	bielefeld, bonn, bremen, bremerhaven, cottbus, dessau, dortmund, dresden, erfurt, erlangen, essen, frankfurt/m, hannover, hameln, krefeld, heilbronn, münster, oberhausen, offenburg, osnabrück, ludwigshafen, queadlinburg, recklinghausen, stuttgart, wuppertal
international	armenia, austria, belgium, bulgaria, brazil, chile, cyprus, dominican republic, denmark, ecuador, france, georgia, greece, ireland, italy, jordan, lithuania, latvia, mexico, nicaragua, north macedonia, panama, poland, romania, russia, senegal, serbia, slovenia, spain, switzerland, trinidad & tobago, venezuela, west bank

repertory

2024 »la nef des fols« 2023 »les égarés« 2022 »staubkinder« 2021 »point de vue«, »clair obscur« 2020 »tell me a better story 1+2«, »meantime« 2019 »shifted realities« 2018 »volto umano« 2017 »momentum«, »die einen, die anderen« 2016 »tempus fugit« 2015 »minute papillon«, »la salle« 2014 »blind date«, »miles mysteries« 2013 »if I was real«, »the thing I am« 2012 »wut«, »the rest of me« 2011 »anderland«, »every single day« 2010 »secrets perdus«, »à contre corps« 2009 »wound«, »les possédés« 2008 »the silencers«, »reading toscas« 2007 »simply gifts«, »life is perfect« 2006 »real time.compiler«, »éclats du réel«, »irrsinn« 2005 »die sanfte«, »short stories« 2004 »double sens«, »spuren« 2003 »better days«, »here to there«, »isson« 2002 »outré vie«, »drift« 2001 »nichts. ich werde da sein, indem ich nicht da bin.« 2000 »falten der nacht«, »ysteres«, »vertige« 1999 »faits d'hiver« 1998 »entrevissions« 1997 »landscapes«, »le temps d'après« 1996 »d'un(e)s«

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