

Kitt Johnson X-act

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FORUM HUMANUM

We act in large numbers and crowds, alone or separately. We step into and out of the Human Sea. Swallowed up and whirled around, we manoeuvre ourselves back into the friction between them, us and I. We group ourselves into clans and clubs, nations and networks, before we let ourselves get swallowed up again. Meanwhile, we pursue our needs dictated by drives. If satisfaction is obstructed, the choice is between aggression, sublimation or repression. The codex of the crowd against the demands of biology.

– Kitt Johnson.

FORUM HUMANUM is a mass performance with 52 bodies on stage (13 professional dancers and 39 extras), which explores the gregarious nature of human beings. The performance constitutes the second and last part of Kitt Johnson X-act's exploration of the human being as a creature of instinctive drives. The first part is the critically acclaimed solo performance DRIFT or drive, which received the Award for the most original exploration into one of the segments of theatrical language at INFANT festival in Novi Sad, June 2013, and was also nominated for a Reumert for Dance Performance of the Year 2012, as well as for Teaterpolaken in 2011.

FORUM HUMANUM premiered at Dansehallerne in Copenhagen on the 8th June 2013.

Produced by Kitt Johnson X-act with support from: The Danish Arts Council Committee for Performing Arts, The Copenhagen Committee for Performing Arts, The Bikuben Foundation, The Augustinus Foundation, The Wilhelm Hansen Foundation, The Toyota-Foundation, Overretssagfører L. Zeuthens Mindelegat and The Danish National Bank Jubilee Foundation.



Photography: Per Morten Abrahamsen

Credits

Choreographer/director: Kitt Johnson

Composer/musician: Sture Ericson

Lighting designer: Mogens Kjempff

Costume designer: Charlotte Østergaard

Choreographer's assistant: Alexandre Bourdat

Devising ensemble: Andreas Constantinou, Antoinette Helbing, César García, Carina Raffel, Emma-Cecilie Ajanki, Felipe Salazar, Jan Vesala, Jean-Hughes Miredin, Marek Magierecki, Mette Aakjær, Sonja Øien Salkowitch, Troels Hagen Findsen, Angela Herenda de Kroo
Ensemble: 39 local extras

Contact:

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More information:

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EXTRACTS FROM THE PRESS

We are witnesses of a constantly seeking nuclear fusion of latent energy charged with the strangest visions. Danced by an impressive team of performers, some of which are professionals, others amateurs, 52 bodies of all ages and shapes, 52 singularities... A kind of hellish vision seen through Brugels eyes. Or Jacques Tatis... Ominously absurd and wryly humorous... You can't really describe Forum Humanum as a dance performance. Only in a few places does something happen we would normally define as dance. The work is rather about all of the things the body does, before it becomes dance – and generally everything the human being is before language... a place of impulses and drives. But also a place of play... the bubbly and explosively joyful energy of the performers sticks around. Long after the last grunt.

Kristian Husted, Politikken, Denmark, June 2013

Throughout 'May B', yours truly is strongly reminded of Kitt Johnson's new and very thought provoking ensemble piece Forum Humanum, which ... in its own picturesque language precisely also completely undisguised and humorously shows the basic drives of the human being.

Vibeke Wern, Danstidningen, Sweden, November 2013

The entire performance explores the human being as a creature of drives, and it was frighteningly easy to recognise the animal within us all. Survival and reproduction formed the core, but the humorous and heart-warming layers kept you from distancing yourself. When it was all over I was sold, and would have liked to see more of the gregarious animal, laugh even more and captivated look at the physical achievements on stage.

Forbrugermania, CPH Stage, Denmark, June 2013

It's some of the best Kitt Johnson has ever created, it's as simple as that... Multi-facetted, seductive and very clever performance, where the keynote raw themes continuously turn in new directions.

Lars Wallenberg, Børsen, Denmark, June 2013

Forum Humanum invites us into a disturbing landscape where primitive urges are put under spotlights – where the dictates of mass behaviour and the consequences of "stepping outside" are ruthlessly exposed. Transforming these challenging and thought provoking themes onto the stage and into Johnsons choreographic visions and fluid artistic universe can only have one outcome: a passionate, fascinating and uncompromising 80 minute rollercoaster that will entertain and provoke.

The instantly recognisable themes combined with world-class choreography and dancing make this an altogether excellent and unmissable opportunity to follow your own urges and see yourself in the staged visions and universe of Kitt Johnson and Forum Humanum.

Pete Streader, The Copenhagen Post, June 2013

Kitt Johnson's philosophical point with Forum Humanum is extremely interesting and it is as multi-faceted and biologically based as the points in her other work. Her anthropological curiosity is always refreshingly far ahead of any kind of morality, and this is why she is actually successful in portraying a world without any decision-making with a rare purity. She just shows the human being as a creature.

Anne Middelboe Christensen, Information, Denmark, June 2013

Like in DRIFT so too in Forum Humanum do we see a hair-line balancing act between the sublimation of drives in sport or their release in violence. There is fighting spirit here, and rituals and mass hysteria surrounding the football game, but also scary situations of bullying and group violence... Interesting and effective is the performers' use of the animalistic primordial sounds of the voice, which along the deep resonances of Sture Ericson's music gives the performance a beautiful dimension of sound. Kitt Johnson has also managed with great success to mix 13 professional performers with 39 adult extras of all ages, and Mogens Kjempff casts enchanting lights on the many bodies.

Vibeke Wern, Berlingske Tidende, Denmark, June 2013

Beautiful, dark and original dance performance. Forum Humanum is highly successful... Well done!

Nanna Goul, Weekendavisen, Denmark, June 2013

