

Abattoir Fermé

Tourniquet (2007)



“Dead ground on which nothing grows

A foundation of flesh, a cracked floor, with walls as if infected by a disease

The house as a body – a gaping hole, the door its wound

The inhabitants a tourniquet,

staunching the blood and keeping the residence alive...

About the performance:

In *Tourniquet*, *Abattoir Fermé* continues on the path towards silent and filmlike theatre (see also *Moe maar op en dolend* and the ‘dream sequence’ in *Tinseltown*) and makes its most visual work to date. The piece suggests the history and contours of a house and its three ‘ghosts’. *Tourniquet* is a completely silent production, focussing upon the ideas of rituals and trance and influenced by modern day exorcisms.

Press reactions:

In the same way that a tourniquet stems the bleeding, this maelstrom of images and the soundscore of KRENG wedge themselves further and further into the mind of the viewer. *Tourniquet* is a silent film of an hour and a half on stage and with a visual power equal to that of Murnau.

- *Knack magazine*

Tourniquet offers a hypnotic experience and is one of the best plays of the year. The actors don't utter a word, but it is the viewer who is left behind speechless at the end.

- *De Standaard*

The actors play situations, attitudes and confrontations. Their bodies become beautiful marble and crushed flesh at the same time. It is theatre in its purest form, naked, without the necessity of text. Yet this is more than mime, and the actors are not speechless. They let the totality speak. The refined performance of their bodies says exactly that which theatre only rarely dares to say these days, namely that theatre is a challenge and a discovery, both for actor and spectator.

- *Theatermaggezien*

A mysterious maelstrom of sensations slides by, while we watch, stupefied and enchanted.

- *Cutting Edge*

It is the dream of every artist: to create reality instead of relating it second-hand. *Tourniquet* is more than the best production director Stef Lernous and co. have made since 1999. This is theatre that far transcends the power of film by being so physically present that it almost breaks through its own fiction. Alienation is very real here and disconnects good and evil: you don't know what to think. The only certainty is the exceptional nature of *Tourniquet* within what we presently call theatre.

- *De Morgen*

Credits

Director: *Stef Lernous*

Actors: *Kirsten Pieters, Kristof Coenen, Chiel van Berkel.*

Music by *KRENG.*

Opened: *16. May 2007*