

Jan Rozman:

MEMEMEME



MEMEMEME is the space of a community's flow of association, a clash of an infinite number of memes* and their reverberations. Through the performers' bodies, their mobile phones and digital video and sound references and associations, the performance layers gestures, movements, images and expressions. Its performative score plays with and around the mechanics and aesthetics of internet memes. As a living mimetic organism, the stage actions are multiplied and repeated, diversified and mutated to open up the potential semantic splits and gaps that reflect the fragmented and alienated nature of modern communication and the internet society.

**A meme is any idea that is, despite its potential randomness or nonsense, repeated and multiplied through variation and selection. The term meme (from Ancient Greek mimeme, 'imitated thing') was coined by biologist Richard Dawkins as a cultural equivalent of a gene to designate language, stories, knowledges, habits, styles and behaviour that is transmitted through imitation. As a consequence of the near universal use of the internet in the digital age, the most widespread, flexible, resilient, and circulated are precisely (viral) internet memes.*





“The grotesque, hysterical faces of the dancers, opening up to the gaze of the camera on stage as something discreet, projected onto the screen, distance the supposed privacy of the spaces through which we launch ourselves online, thus underlining the grotesqueness of behaviour we are forced into by being constantly observed. The stage – this most conspicuous civilisational site of being observed – becomes the space of intimacy, but one we can now voyeuristically watch, while the new site of being observed becomes the screen.”

“You hate Mondays not capitalism” by Muanis Sinanović (27.11.2019, Kriterij.si.)

ABOUT

Duration: 60 minutes (without a break)

Language: Slovene or English

Number of people touring: 7 or 8

CREDITS

Concept, Direction & Choreography: Jan Rozman

Performers: Peter Frankl, Kaja Janjić, Julija Pečnikar, Daniel Petković

Dramaturgy: Varja Hrvatin

Music & Video: Vid Merlak

Costume Design: Tanja Pađan (Kiss The Future)

Light Design: Urška Vohar

Set design adviser: Dan Pikalo

Graphic design: Matija Medved

Video documentation: Hana Vodeb

Photo documentation: Nada Žgank

Executive Producer: Sabina Potočki

Producer: Emanat

Partners: Bunker / Old Power Station, Ljubljana, Mediterranean

Dance Center, Svetvinčenat

Financial support: City Municipality of Ljubljana
and ministry of Culture RS

In collaboration with: CoFestival 2019, Ljubljana

VIDEOS

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/381132697>

Teaser: <https://vimeo.com/370874500>

Full version: <https://vimeo.com/376159096>

(password: h3h3h3)

CONTACT

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BIOGRAPHIES

Jan Rozman (1991) is a freelance dancer, choreographer, improviser, performer, and performance maker, based in Ljubljana and Berlin. He studied contemporary dance at Arts Secondary School in Ljubljana and choreography at School for New Dance Development (AhK) in Amsterdam. He received his Master's degree in solo/dance/authorship from Inter-University Centre for Dance (UdK), Berlin. In 2019, he received the Ksenija Hribar Award, presented by the Contemporary Dance Association Slovenia, as the "promising choreographer" and was also the recipient of the DanceWeb scholarship at the ImpulseTanz Festival in Vienna.

Peter Frankl (1991) is a performer and musician, based in Ljubljana. His primary artistic interest is theatre and movement improvisation. He is one of the founders of the IGLU - Improvisation Theatre Ljubljana and member of the international improvisers' network Ohana, collective Smrt Boga in Otrok and the artistic leader of Improvisation.

Kaja Janjić (1984) started her career as dancer and choreographer after graduating in contemporary dance, ballet, and choreography from the Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance in 2006. She has performed in dance, theatre, cabaret, and children's performances and recently also started teaching.

Julija Pečnikar (1995) studied dance at the Arts Secondary School in Ljubljana and recently graduated from the Contemporary Dance Academy in Budapest. Her first encounter with movement practices was through judo techniques. She collaborated with choreographers such as Vita Osojnik, Csaba Molnár, Marco Torrice, Adrienn Hód, Tamás Bakó, Viktor Szeri and Tijen Lawton.

Daniel Petković (1991) is a dancer, actor, and performer. He has performed at various festivals and collaborated with different collectives, directors, and choreographers. Primarily a contemporary dancer, he is interested in live art, neoburlesque, drama and hybrid forms of performance art. He has been working freelance since 2015.

Varja Hrvatin (1993) is a dramaturge, playwright, scriptwriter, editor, and co-organiser of the Festival of Playwriting Vzkrik. She finished her Bachelor's degree in dramaturgy and performing arts at the Academy of Theatre, Radio, Film and Television in Ljubljana, where she is currently finishing her Master's degree in screenplay writing. As a dramaturge, she worked in the National Theatre Drama Ljubljana, Mladinsko Theatre, and Archa Theatre in Prague.

Vid Merlak (1995) studies video art and new media at the Academy of Fine Art and Design in Ljubljana. He has presented his work at the Academy's annual group exhibitions, exhibitions of the Academy's video art and new media department, the exhibition on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Academy of Fine Art and Design, the solo exhibition at BiKoFe, and recently in Aksioma with his graduation short film Seen.

Urška Vohar (1977) is a choreographer, dancer, dance educator, and lighting designer. She graduated in visual art pedagogy from the Faculty of Education in Maribor and finished studies at the School for New Dance Development in Amsterdam, Holland in 2006. She created several performances and is working as dancer, choreographer, and lighting designer with different art organisations: Emanat, Maska, City of Women Festival, and many others.

Kiss the Future is the artistic alter ego of **Tanja Pađan** (1982). She graduated in textile and fashion design from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Engineering in Ljubljana. She is an active member of Anselma –public makeshop. Her work has been shown at Pop-up dom, Design Week Vienna, BIO50, Tranzit Store at Design Week London, Month of Design Ljubljana and presented in magazines such as REVS, Kneon, C-heads, and Dreck Magazine.

Dan Pikalo (1992) is a postgraduate student in set design at the Academy of Theatre, Radio, Film and Television Ljubljana. He is interested in working across artistic fields and media. Since 2016, he has been focusing on designing sets for theatre, film, and television. He has been working with Jan Rozman since 2010.



MEMEMEME, 2018, photos by Nada Žgank