

DON QUIXOTE

BLITZ THEATRE GROUP



Athens, Greece

Performances in Greek with surtitles

International development
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DON QUIXOTE

BLITZ THEATRE GROUP

Adaptation and direction – **Giorgos Valaïs / Angeliki Papoulia / Christos Passalis**

With

Aris **Armaganidis**

Nikos **Flessas**

Michalis **Mathioudakis**

Angeliki **Papoulia**

Christos **Passalis**

Fidel **Talaboukas**

Marissa **Triantafyllidou**

Giorgos **Valaïs**

Assistant director / surtitles - **Vassia Attarian**

Set and costumes - **Eva Manidaki**

Sound Design - **Stefanos Konstantinidis**

Lighting - **Tasos Palaioroutas**

Coproduction - **Blitz Theatre Group / Athens and Epidaurus Festival 2012**

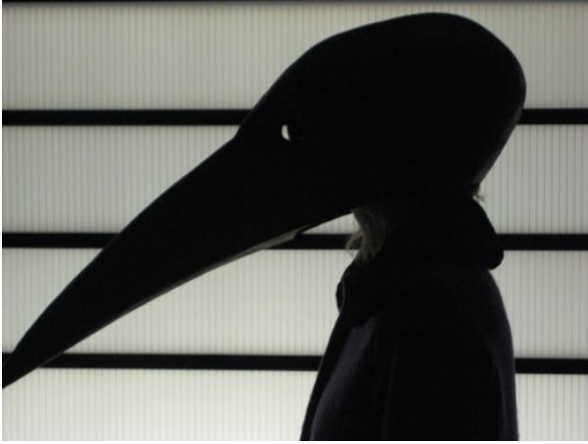
Duration - 60 minutes

Creation in **June 2012**, Athens and Epidaurus Festival

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The performance is a docufiction which describes incidents from the life of the Knight of Mancha. Incidents that are described in the book, incidents inspired by it or completely re-invented.

At the same time, characters from the book and historical persons give their own opinion on the hero, expressing their support or their doubts about the way he lived. A mix of people that met Don Quichotte personally, "in real and of people that read about him afterwards and were inspired or repulsed by his life and his adventures".

The performance follows the lonely journey of the knight from the first night he left Mancha until the time of his death. Don Quichotte is walking on a tread-mill, walking but not really moving, while he is being surrounded by strange birds and persons with masks, young men and women running in a deserted landscape, in a weird *Punishment Park*, in a violent and irrational universe, where chaos reigns and all hope is gone. It is not clear if this strange world really exists or if it is the product of the hero's deranged mind. It is not clear if this world is the universe of the book or the real world we live in.

The production reworks the legend of the "knight of the heavy countenance" in an effort to pin down the loneliness of the man who chases windmills as he walks through a hard and incomprehensible world: a docufiction / static road movie about the adventure of being or, to quote László Krasznahorkai, the "melancholy of resistance".

This iconoclastic performance is an attempt of Blitz Theatre Group to capture, with the help of an old myth, this modern sense that was first described by W. Burroughs and especially J.G. Ballard, where fiction and reality are distinguished by a really fine line, where fragments of fiction and dream are mixed with reality. Or as Ballard puts it, "Today, fiction has overcome reality. And by fiction, I mean television, radio, the press and politics".

BLITZ THEATRE GROUP

PRESENTATION



The **Blitz Theatre Group** was formed in October, 2004 in Athens by **Giorgos Valaïs**, **Angeliki Papoulia** and **Christos Passalis**. Till then, the members of the team had studied drama and had worked in various ensembles. **Blitz Theatre Group** was formed, based on the following principles:

- the common faith that theatre is a field where people should meet each other in the most essential way and exchange ideas and not a field for virtuosity and ready made truths
- their need to find an answer to the questions what society asks and needs from art today and what theatre means in the dawn of the 21th century
- the equality of the members as far as conception, writing, direction and dramaturgy are concerned and the belief that everything is under doubt, that nothing must be taken for granted, neither in theatre nor in life

Their goal, their orientation, their vision is towards a form that could possibly rennovate theatre. To do that, they chose the (main) modern stream of combination of arts and crafts in the theatrical field. This was a way that enabled them to search new paths as far as dramaturgy, acting, playwriting, narration, representation are concerned.

The group presents its first performance **Motherland**, in 2006; and in 2007, it creates **Joy Division** and **New Order**. As a simulation of a weird game show, **New Order** invites the spectators to play the part of a jury. The contestants are two divorced couples that try to solve the dead-ends of their relationship, reading each other's letters in public, dancing, singing, cursing or being violent.

In 2009, **Blitz** co-directs Goethe's **Faust**. It's the first classical text the group is staging, proposing a new reading of **Walpurgis night**.

After **The House**, where 7 performers meet in real time with around 20 spectators in their real residence in Athens, the theatrical company creates **Katerini**. This 5-hour performance takes place in a two-storey building, and more specifically, in a roof in the centre of Athens and 6 rooms, where the performers meet with the spectators, one by one, by appointment.

In 2010, the group presents **Guns! Guns! Guns!**. With this show, Blitz returns in a conventional theatrical stage where a review of the 20th century is taking place. **Guns! Guns! Guns!** is a delirious review based on the idea of revolution and the question how could one change the world. The grotesque rubs shoulders with the tragic, the intimate collides with History and the universal is embodied in a multitude of individual stories, so far away from us and yet so close.

Firts Blitz's performance to be played out of Greece, **Guns! Guns! Guns!** is presented at the Théâtre de la Ville of Paris and during the festival Automne en Normandie, in 2012.

At the end of 2010, the group presents **Galaxy**. Performance in-situ for eight actors and an interminable list of names of people, ideas, words, objects or ideologies, all of which share the common trait of no longer being: they are dead, lost, forgotten. This «controlled improvisation» speaks directly to the spectators, who are invited to stay for several minutes or several hours.

In March 2012, Blitz put on a German language version with actors from the Berlin Schaubühne, which later included it in its repertory. A French language version is planned for December 2013, in the frame of the Festival Reims – Scènes d'Europe, at la Comédie de Reims.

In 2012, the Blitz Theatre Group proposes **Don Quixote**, an iconoclastic documentary-fiction that recalls the Don Quixote's adventures; adventures extracted from the famous novel o completely invented. **Don Quixote** has been presented in 2012, at the Comedy de Reims, during the festival – Reims Scènes d'Europe, and at the Thalia Theater of Hamburg, in the frame of the Lessingtage festival.

Late Night, the last Blitz's performance, has been presented for its first time in France, some months after its creation, in October 2012, at the Onassis Cultural Center of Athens. In **Late Night**, three men and three women dance in a ballroom in a different time, in the middle of the rubble after «the catastrophe», and give us the fragments of a story which will never finally be told. Everything has collapsed, but it seems that as long as music endures, they don't have to worry about anything.

On tour at the Manufacture Atlantique of Bordeaux for the Novart festival, at the Comédie de Reims for the festival Reims – Scènes d'Europe or at La Manufacture of Mulhouse, **Late Night** has been part of the Huis A/D Werf festival of Utrecht and of the Theaterformen festival of Hanover.

On tour in France during all the 2013 / 2014 season, **Late Night** is presented at the Théâtre du Nord of Lille in the frame of the Next festival or at the Nouveau Théâtre de Montreuil.

In all their plays, Blitz the question: how to represent a world which changes constantly and plunges people into perplexity?

In a country in crisis whose people more than ever are showing their disillusionment and discontent, the Blitz Theatre Group makes use of theatre to bid farewell to a world which is disappearing ineluctably. Blitz makes no claim to being political theatre, but nevertheless proposes committed theatrical forms, which often take the shape of real performances.

In 2012 / 2013, Blitz Theatre Group presented **Late Night**:

- at La Manufacture Atlantique de Bordeaux, festival Novart
- at La Manufacture de Nancy, festival Ring
- at La Comédie de Reims, festival Reims – Scènes d'Europe
- La Filature, scène nationale de Mulhouse, festival Les Vagamondes
- in Utrecht (Holland) festival Huis A/D Werf
- in Hanover (Germany), festival Theaterformen

In 2012 / 2013, Blitz Theatre Group presented **Don Quixote**:

- at the Athens and Epidaurus festival 2012 of Athens (Greece)
- at La Comédie de Reims, festival Reims – Scènes d'Europe
- at the Thalia Theater of Hamburg, festival Lessingtage (Germany)

In 2012 / 2013, Blitz Theatre Group presented **Guns! Guns! Guns!**:

- at Le Volcan, scène nationale du Havre, festival Automne en Normandie
- at the festival Théâtre en Mai, Dijon

LIGNE DIRECTE
Season 2013 / 2014

BLITZ THEATRE GROUP

Giorgos Valaïs, Angeliki Papoulia & Christos Passalis

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LATE NIGHT

8 October 2013 – ARLES, Théâtre d'Arles
11 October 2013 – SOLOMEO, Teatro Stabile dell'Umbria (Italy)
27 to 30 November 2013 – LILLE, Théâtre du Nord, Next Festival
10 to 20 December 2013 – MONTREUIL, Nouveau Théâtre de Montreuil
7 and 8 February 2014 – BRUXELLES, Bozar (Belgium)
11 February 2014 – CHERBOURG, Le trident
15 to 17 April 2014 – STRASBOURG, Le Maillon
15 May 2014 – SIEGEN, Apollo Theater (Germany)
24 May 2014 – CHATEAUVALLON, CNCDC
11 and 12 July 2014 – LYON, Les Nuits de Fourvière

GALAXY
Re-creation 2013

6 and 7 December 2013 – REIMS, La Comédie, festival Reims – Scènes d'Europe

GUNS! GUNS! GUNS!

14 February 2014 – CHERBOURG, Le trident

DON QUIXOTE

23 May 2014 – TOULON, Théâtre Liberté
8 and 9 July 2014 – LYON, Les Nuits de Fourvière

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