



The Institute of Global Loneliness
inspired by Thomas Mann's The Magic Mountain
blitztheatregroup

Description

Planet Earth is under attack from a deadly virus: the virus of loneliness. The epidemic leaves many people dead while whole countries are put in quarantine. For the cure of the sick ones, Institutes of Loneliness have opened all around the world. They are built in isolated places, usually in the mountains and gradually, as the disease is spreading more and more, the patients are carried in former sanatoriums. In the piece, the patients are carried in Berghof Sanatorium, the sanatorium where Thomas Mann's 'The Magic Mountain' takes place.

The end of the patient comes when the inner organs freeze to death. There is a legend that the dead ones end up in a snowy mountain, taken there by a spirit dressed in a white dress. The epidemic insists - despite the human efforts- until the total elimination of the human race.

The piece shows the daily schedule of the patients in this Institute.

They take their medication and do exercises that will help them fight the virus, exercises that will help them start reacting and start accepting and loving their fellow human beings.

Their daily routine also consists of memorising texts and dialogues from famous books: Using scripted dialogues that the Institute has given them, the patients spend their day in a set (like the ones used in cinema), in a fake interior garden with a fake fountain. In this artificial space, they are asked to act and play fictional scenes taken from Thomas Mann's 'The Magic Mountain': love confessions, exercises of friendship, dance exercises and fake parties, all inspired by the chapters of the book.



Dramaturgy

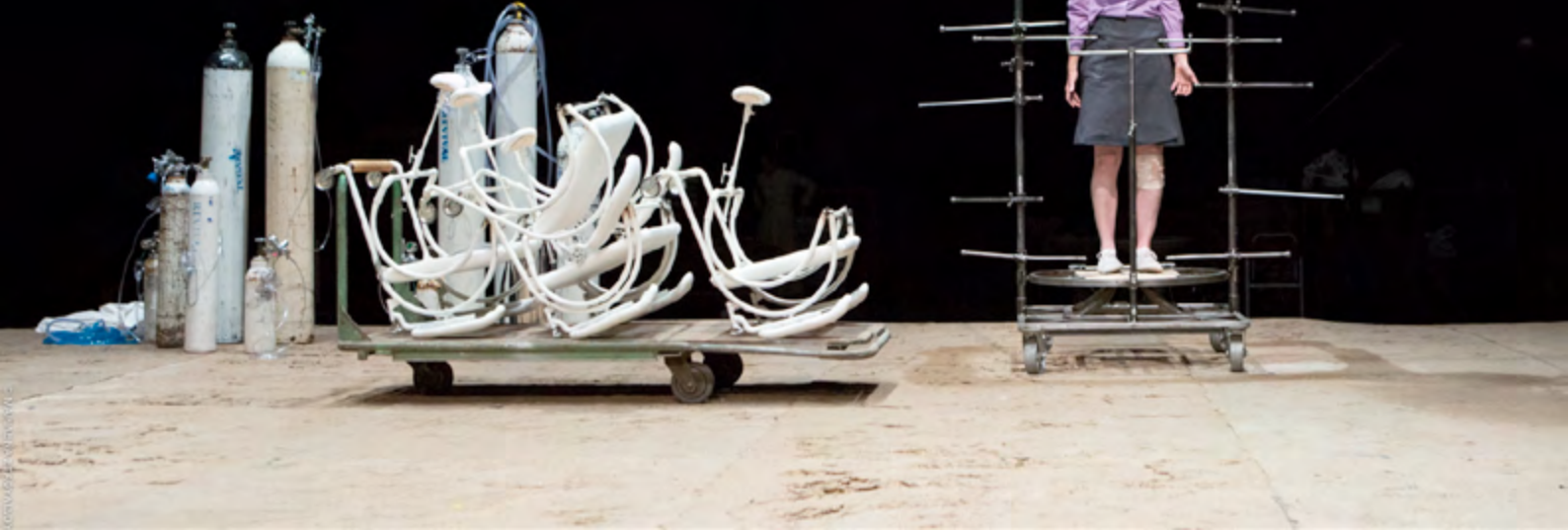
The Institute of Global Loneliness is a piece where the real and the artificial are continuously mixed together. The actors of blitztheatre group act as the patients of the Institute who, in their turn, act as actors. They have to learn texts by heart and enact them with their fellow patients in the hope that these warm words that were borrowed from a book will help them feel something, will wake them up emotionally and help them warm up their internal world that's frozen as a result of the disease. They try to fall in love using someone else's words, they try to connect using literature, unable as they are to invent their own words and ways of connecting.

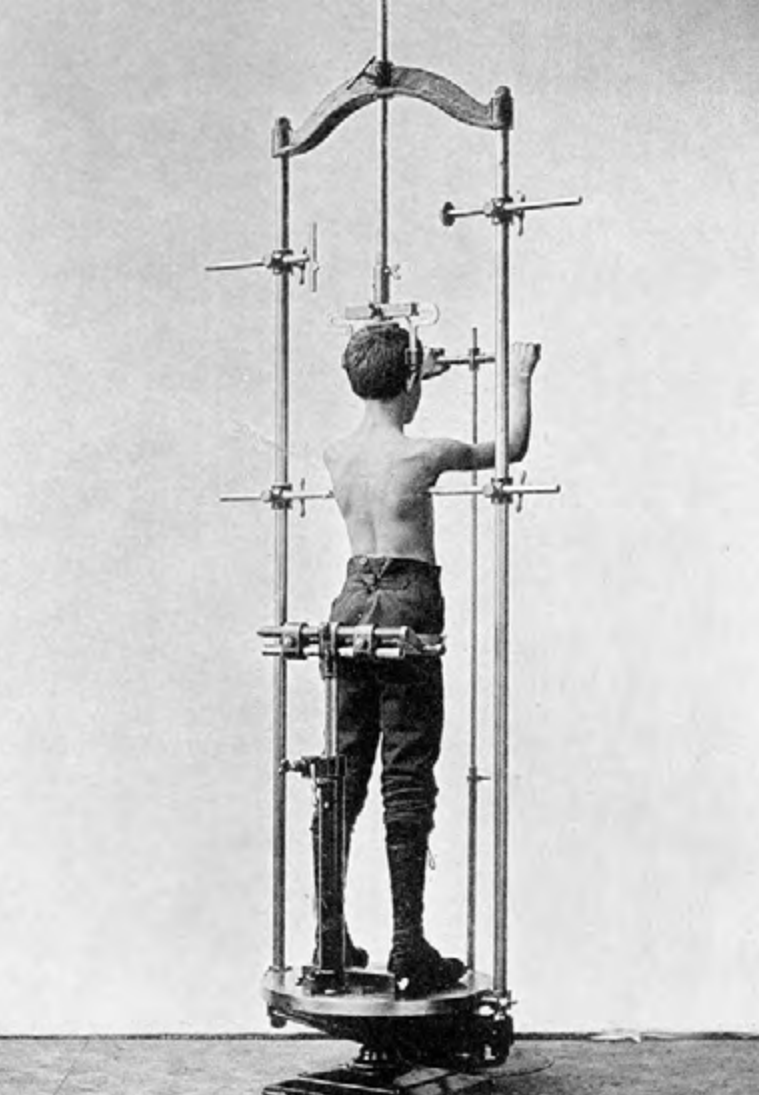
Their efforts are pointless. The disease is much stronger than any human effort or trick. In the end, Loneliness triumphs.

It is obvious that after 'Casablanca', people fall in love differently. It is obvious that after Hitchcock's 'Psycho', the shower is not the place it used to be. Whilst being a comment on how we fall in love, how we make friends or how we socialize, 'distorted' as we are by too many images, too much cinema, too much literature, too much pop culture, the INSTITUTE OF GLOBAL LONELINESS describes the 21st century as The Century of Loneliness: an era where Loneliness on a personal, a social and an international level will transform the planet into a battlefield (if not already) and possibly, in the not so distant future, into a desert.

Set designer's note

The place 'Inner Garden With Fountain' is the name of a set that is established inside the Institute of Global Loneliness where patients compete with the physical manifestations of loneliness as a disease, their physical weakness, the limits of their resistance in conditions of coexistence. A series of paradoxical exercises and physical examinations are performed through dadaistic machinery in a surrealistic daily methodology defined by the Institute. An off-centre fountain becomes the point of gathering and affiliation that its cadence co-ordinates with the pace of an inner activity, a heartbeat.





The Institute of Global Loneliness

blitztheatregroup

in Greek, French and English with surtitles

Production : blitztheatregroup

Co-production : Athens and Epidaurus Festival (GR),
CULTURESCAPES (CH).

With the support of the Institut Français de Grèce and
Comédie de Reims (FR)

Direction - Dramaturgy: blitztheatregroup (Aggeliki Papoulia,
Christos Passalis, Yorgos Valais)

Set design: Efi Birba

Costume design: Vasileia Rozana

Music - Sound design: Coti K

Music coaching: Eriñli Giannakopoulou

Lighting design: Tassos Palaioroutas

Choreography - Movement: Giannis Nikolaidis

Stage props - special constructions: Sokratis Papadopoulos

Make-up - Hair styling: Evi Zafiropoulou

Assistant director: Vasia Attarian

Assistant to the set designer: Georgia Boura

Cast: Catherine Hargreaves, Romanos Kalokyris,
Katerina Mavrogeorgi, Aggeliki Papoulia, Christos Passalis,
Yorgos Valais, Dimitra Vlagopoulou

Production manager: Maria Dourou

Promotion & project development: Ligne Directe

Premiere 30JUN17, Athens - Duration: 90 minutes



Tour dates

11.2017
CULTURESCAPES / Basel (CH)

02.2018
FESTIVAL REIMS SCÈNES D'EUROPE (FR)

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