

Spleen

Charles Baudelaire: Poems in Prose

Figurentheater Wilde & Vogel in Coproduction with
FITZ! Zentrum für Figurentheater Stuttgart and Lindenfels Westflügel Leipzig

directed by: Hendrik Mannes

performance & puppets: Michael Vogel

live-Music: Charlotte Wilde

voices: Charlie Bunn, Hannah Ravalda, Catherine Smith, Emily Smith, Eve Smith and Lawrence Smith

*Which one of us, in his moments of ambition, has not dreamed of the miracle of a poetic prose, musical, without rhythm and without rhyme, supple enough and rugged enough to adapt itself to the lyrical impulses of the soul, the undulations of reverie, the jibes of conscience? It was, above all, out of my exploration of huge cities, out of the medley of their innumerable interrelations, that this haunting ideal was born.
(Baudelaire: Preface to „Paris Spleen“, 1869)*

„Spleen“ is a kaleidoscope of pictures, songs and miniatures, inspired by Charles Baudelaire's collection of poems in prose „Le Spleen de Paris“, which was published posthumously in 1869. Mankind on the threshold to modernity is described in the scenes played out between thirst for life and longing for death, between a romantic search for infinity and a brutal triviality.

The play is open in this production: the performers are on the stage with puppets and musical instruments, Baudelaire's texts are spoken by children and recorded on tape. The magic of this kaleidoscope develops in the imagination between actors, material and audience: A sequence of pictures and live-music, that wants to counterpoint Baudelaire's vision of the world and open it for an understanding from the present.

Awarded with the prize for a Special Artistic Achievement at the Stuttgarter Theaterpreis 2007
Grand Prix and Young Critics Award at the International Festival of Puppetry Art, Bielsko-Bia a (PL) 2008
Grand Prix and two special awards at the International Festival of Puppet Theatre Warsaw (PL) 2009
Award for the best music at Festival „Spotkanie“ at Teatr Baj Pomorski Torun (PL) 2009

Financially supported by the Cultural Ministeries of Stuttgart, Leipzig and Baden-Württemberg and the Foundation of the Württembergische Hypothekenbank for Arts and Sciences