

# KAFKA IN WONDERLAND



A STAGE COMIC BY HALF PAST SELBER SCHULD

Are there still truck drivers in 10 years, doctors in 30 years and politicians in 50 years? Does death still have a future?

The Dusseldorf duo of artist **half past selber schuld** is planning to produce a spectacular stage comic called KAFKA IN WONDERLAND on the subject of transhumanism \*. A strong, prominent visualization will dominate the aesthetics of the play. Through the use of wonderful music, choreography, breathtaking puppet play, astounding 3D shadow play and other surprising effects, the duo dares an optimistic but critical look into the near future of mankind.

In order to reach an international audience with this production, elements involving the spoken word will be kept to a minimum. Some of the songs or dialogues will be subtitled while some will be presented in English.

\* Transhumanism is an international and intellectual movement that aims to transform the human condition by developing and making widely available sophisticated technologies to greatly enhance human intellectual, physical, and psychological capacities (Wikipedia). It is a steadily growing (also political) movement which, within the next decades, expects an evolutionary leap of man - through genetics, robotics and nanotechnology.

KAFKA IN WONDERLAND will include 6 - 10 episodes, all of which would also work on their own, and through their merger will provide a hopeful and disturbing picture of our future.

While the titular WONDERLAND refers to a future, highly-engineered society; the protagonist -KAFKA- will be representative of an individual who has been disenfranchised by the system, and therefore has his legitimate problems with this new world.



Quite unlike ALICE, who was born into this future and has benefited from its effects. She is like a child, who can intuitively use a smartphone without guidance whereas KAFKA is like someone from a previous generation - wholly ignorant of how to interact with the technology.

Scenes will emerge that deal critically and humorously with the human future. Elements from Kafka's work and life, symbolic figures and scenes from the wonderland, as well as predictions by leading futurists will explore where these new technologies will lead us. Scenes, such as "the last funeral" (about the funeral of the last mortal) and "life after life" (about the upload of a conscious mind after death), as well as stories and songs about "the well-functioning love relationship of an asexual robot man with a virtual rabbit woman" or "the psychological problems of an intelligent vehicle".

We can hardly wait to explore and shape this future.  
Are you with us?

**half past selber schuld** is a German-Israeli duo of artist. Ilanit Magarshak-Riegg and Sir ladybug beetle have been working together since 1998 and have produced colorful, opulent so-called "stage comics" for theater, not less opulent "radio comics", music and films since 2002. The well arranged music and the opulent, comical visualization is characteristic of half past selber schuld.

For the current production there will be 6 - 8 players on stage.

**half past selber schuld** is regarded as the inventor of stage comics, which was impressively illustrated at the beginning of the year 2016 - by the victory of the German TV talent show for puppetry "Die Puppenstars".

During the last research trip through the USA, half past selber schuld was communicating with prestigious transhumanists and was also able to win two outstanding Los Angeles artists for the KAFKA IN WONDERLAND project, the puppeteer Eli Zachary Socoloff Presser and the shadow artist Christine Marie.



ABWÄRTSBUNKER 2009



DIE WELTMENSCHEN EROBERN DIE WELT 2012

**KAFKA**



IN WONDERLAND

In coproduction with  
FFT Dusseldorf and  
Pumpenhaus Münster  
Funded by the State of NRW  
and the City of Dusseldorf  
Further funding asked: Fonds  
Darstellende Künste

premiere and further dates of performances:

26. / 27. / 28. / 29. april 2017

FFT Kammerspiele Düsseldorf

05. / 06. may 2017

No Strings Attached Festival Mainz

end of may 2017

Int. Figurentheaterfestival Nürnberg / Erlangen

autumn 2017 or spring 2018

Pumpenhaus Münster



MONSTER 2014



Die Tagebücher von Kommissar Zufall 2004



Puppenstars 2016

Foto: RTL/Stefan Gregorovius

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