

SYLVIA RIMAT

I guess if the stage
exploded...



“ If you like, you can close your eyes and wander back in your mind. To the hippocampus in your brain, which is a campus, a field, like the old air field in Berlin. And in this field there is space for everything and anything. A brown leather armchair, an eagle owl with bright orange eyes and the legendary voice of Maria Callas. A patch of grass in Berlin and a party with multi-coloured streamers in a kitchen in Sydney, Australia, a mysterious hooting owlman and a woman wearing a red lampshade, dancing angular shapes across the stage. ”



Performance maker Sylvia Rimat follows the aspirational and possibly impossible goal to present a show never to be forgotten by its audience members – not a single one. By introducing memory tasks and techniques and applying them to the stage situation, the audience is systematically trained to remember – hopefully forever.

I guess if the stage exploded... aims to explore and interlink ideas on memory, presence and sight, whilst trying to understand our urge to be commemorated. The show draws on memory techniques taken from popular science books and on models of remembering, borrowed from several disciplines.

Rimat will be joined on stage by several performers from around the world who support her mission live via Skype, and a living Eagle Owl.

For the development of the show, several specialists were approached, e.g. a researcher from Bristol Neuroscience, a lecturer from Experimental Psychology, a hypnotherapist and a researcher from the Centre for Death and Society in Bath, to get their advise on how the performance could be remembered. Sound excerpts from these conversations are woven into the final performance, drawing the audience's attention to the role of brain waves and the hippocampus in the brain, on the difficulty of keeping a memory alive, and on the desire of many of us, to be remembered.

PERFORMANCE DURATION: 55MIN

TOURING TILL 2015



Part of British Council Edinburgh Showcase 2013. *I guess if the stage exploded...* was commissioned by SPILL Festival 2011 at the Barbican, London. Supported by Arts Council England, ICIA Bath, Theatre Bristol. Sylvia Rimat is an In Between Time Associate Artist.



QUOTES

'I'd recommend catching Ms Rimat if you have the opportunity; she's a unique, charming and thoughtful talent.'
- GSCENE MAGAZINE

'A wonderfully inventive performance, that not only questions the nature of performance spectating but also offers tantalising [...] theatrical joy'
- A YOUNGER THEATRE

'There is such a strange menagerie of ideas brought into play in this show that it would be hard to forget'
- TOTAL THEATRE

'Your show is wonderful, I thoroughly enjoyed it! Very sophisticated and thought through, wonderfully engaging for the audience. Loved it!'
- AUDIENCE MEMBER

CREDITS

CONCEPT AND PERFORMANCE Sylvia Rimat

OUTSIDE EYE Rhiannon Chaloner

EXTERNAL SKYPE PERFORMERS Birgit Binder, Andrés Galeano, Malcolm Whittaker & Georgie Meagher

LAMPSHADE CHOREOGRAPHY Kate Ashman

SOUND SUPPORT Charles Poulet

SOUND EXTRACTS from interviews with Dr. Matt Jones (Bristol Neuroscience), Dr. Christopher Kent (Experimental Psychology/ University of Bristol), Dr. John Troyer (Centre for Death and Society, University of Bath), Sam Langley (Hypnotherapy)

PREVIOUS SHOWINGS

of I guess if the stage exploded...

British Council Showcase, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Aug 13

Aberystwyth Arts Centre, UK, Dec 12

Colchester Arts Centre, UK, Nov 12

The Junction, Cambridge, UK, Oct 12

Intacto Festival, Vitoria-Gasteiz/ Spain, Sep 12

Aarhus Festival, Aarhus/ Denmark, Sep 12

Brighton Festival, The Basement, Brighton, UK, May 12

Caravan Festival, Brighton (presentation of show only), UK, May 12

ICIA Bath, UK, April 12

Mayfest, Arnolfini Bristol, UK, May 11

SPILL-Festival, Barbican London, UK, April 11 (premiere)

Supper Club, The Basement Brighton (work-in-progress), UK, March 11

Practice, ICIA Bath (work-in-progress), UK, Feb 11

Extension Series Residency (work-in-progress), Grimmuseum Berlin/ Germany, Jan 11

TECH SPEC



SCALE OF VENUE

- Studio space, 50–250 seats

STAGE

- 10m x 10m (ideal), 6m x 6m minimum
- ends on seating
- black flooring (for visibility of chalk foot steps)

LIGHTING

- General wash
- 3 specials
- House Lights

ANIMAL

- An Eagle Owl will be used during the performance, approx 60 cm tall. The Owl will come on stage with the performer who is wearing a protective glove. A handler will accompany the owl. A spare room needs to be provided for the owl and handler

SOUND

- vocal mic on long lead, mic stand
- PA
- Mixing desk
- Sound cables to two laptops and one i-pod (mini-jack)

VIDEO

- Video screen (12 x 9 feet minimum)
- data-projector (hanging)
- laptop with access to skype
- Internet for skype hook-up
- VGA leads to two laptops (one provided by artist)
- Vision mixer or switcher with blackout function. A switcher could be provided by artist

[VGA Switcher Connections: 1 x VGA Female (output); 2 x VGA Male (input)] and would require the video-projector to be equipped with black-out shutters

CREW

- 1x Sound operator + 1 Lighting operator who also operate PowerPoint and Vision mixer
- Stage Manager to operate skype from laptop (travels with artist)
- 2 Front of House staff/ volunteers required to give a stamp to audience members and lead 7 audience members to different entrance
- Cues to be learnt in tech rehearsal

REQUIRED GET IN TIME

- 8 hours (2 technicians minimum), plus ½ hour owl rehearsal in the space

GET OUT

- ½ hour

SIZE OF COMPANY

- 2 people on the road

FREIGHT

- Weight: 30kg
- Size: 100cm x 130cm x 70cm
- Alternatively: Clear photos and measurements can be provided for venues to source 1 armchair, 1 wooden chair, 1 brown side table, 1 wooden floor lamp and 3 metal buckets; all other props can travel in performer's luggage

PLEASE NOTE

- For international showings outside the UK: a tame Eagle Owl needs to be sourced by the festival/ venue.

SUPPORTING ACTIVITY

Post show discussions and Q&A sessions can be provided.

Workshops based on the company's creative methods are available and can be tailored to specific areas of interest.

VIDEO

A short trailer of this show is available on www.vimeo.com/24746184

Full length video documentation is available on www.vimeo.com/33188851
password: 'Ollietheowl'

ARTIST BIOG

An owl tamer, a bear in red heels, a dancer from a bygone era: Sylvia Rimat creates original solo performances with a pinch of the surreal. She encourages her audience to interact playfully with elements of video, new technologies, animals (imagined and real) and fragments of dance. Consciousness, memory and the imagination are recurring themes, coupled with a process that begins with collaboration. Her research culminates in intelligent, humorous performances that are equally entertaining and thought-provoking.

Rimat's performances have been presented widely in the UK, including the British Council Showcase at Edinburgh Fringe Festival and in Europe.



CONTACT

PRODUCER
TANYA STEINHAUSER
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ARTIST WEBSITE

www.sylviarimat.com

“ If I squint, I can see a serious dancer from the last century. She occupies the stage along with an owl, an elephant, a deer, and pieces of screwed up paper with audience members' names on them – some of it real, some imagined. The images float somewhere between a memory and a dream, but they're always collective. It's not that I am remembering something, but that we're remembering something together. ”

- MARY PATERSON, CRITICAL WRITER SPILL FESTIVAL 2011