

Ingmar Bergman's



The Silence

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 Göteborgs
Stadsteater



Ingmar Bergman's The Silence on stage

The acclaimed Irish theatre company Dead Centre, known for their eccentric esthetics and their playful and unique performance style, are putting their own personal imprint on Ingmar Bergman's film. The world premiere took place on November 5th 2021 at Göteborgs Stadsteater.

Dead Centre, founded in 2012 by Bush Moukarzel, Ben Kidd and Adam Welsh, is one of Ireland's most successful theatre companies of recent years. Their productions LIPPY and Chekhov's First Play have toured more than 20 countries. Dead Centre has produced performances at such theatres as Schaubühne in Berlin and Burgtheater in Vienna, and they have received a number of awards for their work in Ireland as well as internationally.



With them on this production, Dead Centre has an international team including, among others, video film director Grant Gee, who has made such films as Meeting People Is Easy (Radiohead on tour), Joy Division (about the band with that name), New Career in a New Town: David Bowie in Berlin (a documentary) and the iconic music video for Radiohead's song No Surprises. Since 2012 Gee has been collaborating on various projects with the acclaimed theatre director Katie Mitchell.

About Dead Centre's theatre version of Ingmar Bergman's *The Silence*:

"We wanted to capture the atmosphere of desolation and of loneliness, the yearning for communication as in Bergman's film. But we made it speak to a contemporary audience so we situated *The Silence* in today's European political context. The sisters have the privilege of being able to leave the fictional city of Timoka whenever they choose, an impossibility for the local population", says Bush Moukarzel, director.

Anna and Ester, sisters with a difficult relationship, are on their way home to Sweden with Johan, Anna's young son. Ester falls ill and they are forced to interrupt their journey in a foreign country on the border of Europe. They find themselves in the fictional city of Timoka, a mysterious place where the locals speak a language they do not understand. The country seems to be on the verge of a civil war.



Meanwhile, another conflict rages in the hotel between the two sisters, as they desperately try to make sense of their surroundings and of themselves. Left on his own, the child wanders the hotel corridors, meeting the other guests and weaving together fragments of the adults' enigmatic world.

With the help of Grant Gee's live-video design, the audience follows the action through the boy's gaze. In this way, the two art forms film and theatre are also brought closer together.

"This interpretation affords an experience well beyond the expected. In layer on layer, film is mixed with theatre, the strange with the recognizable, the mystical with the realistic until the question "What is a person?" is chiseled into existence. It is deeply impressive.", says Pontus Stenshäll, artistic director of Göteborgs Stadsteater.

The sisters are performed by Mia Höglund-Melin and Sandra Redlaff.



The Silence

World premiere November 5th on the Main Stage at Göteborgs Stadsteater

By: Ingmar Bergman

Adaptation: Mark O'Halloran, Dead Centre

Translation to Swedish: Joel Nordström

Direction: Bush Moukarzel

Video direction: Grant Gee

Ensemble: Mia Höglund-Melin, Sandra Redlaff, Christer Fjellström,

Ramtin Parvaneh, Karin Lycke, Marta Andersson Larson

Extras: Berna Inceoglu, Anna Jukic

Scenography: Jeremy Herbert

Costume design: Maja Kall

Mask design: Patricia Svajger

Light design: Max Mitle

Sound design: Kevin Gleeson

Composer: Kevin Gleeson

Dramaturges: Ben Kidd, Joel Nordström

Publisher: The Ingmar Bergman Foundation (original manuscript)



The Silence. Review quotes

The interaction between Redlaff and Höglund-Melin is as intense and sensitive as scorched skin.

– AFTONBLADET

... dares to really swing the pendulum between film and theatre.

– Dagens Nyheter

The stage designs are as exciting as they are self-evident.

– Borås Tidning

Dead Centre's remarkable production is built on mysticism and, at times, raw exposure. They want to confuse the audience and trigger a thought process that open-minded audiences embrace.

– KULTURBLOGGEN (The Culture Blog)

... a beautiful, expansive visual language.

– Dagens Nyheter

Mia Höglund-Melin and Sandra Redlaff as Ester and Anna deliver strong performances.

– Borås Tidning

Ramtin Paravaneh convincingly portrays one of the least sympathetic roles of his career.

– KULTURBLOGGEN

"The Silence" is striking, dark, sinister and evil. But, as a consolation, it includes a delicate finale outside and down The Avenue on a fall evening in November.

– KAI MARTIN'S BLOG