

Tojo Theater
FR 25.5. | 20:00 | Stammtisch 21:30
SA 26.5. | 20:00

Ursula Martinez (London)
My Stories, Your Emails

Text & Performance: Ursula Martinez | **Regie:** Mark Whitelaw | **Licht:** Christopher Copland

Koproduktion: Barbican BITE 10 London, IQUN International Festival Manchester

Sprache: Englisch | Die Vorstellung vom 25.5. und der Stammtisch werden in Gebärdensprache übersetzt

Dauer: 1h

Ursula Martinez hat eine ebenso witzige wie brillante Zaubershow mit dem Titel Hanky Panky, in der sie – in diesem Kontext nicht ganz nebensächlich – zum Schluss nackt auf der Bühne steht und sich das verschwundene rote Taschentuch aus der Vagina zieht. Irgendwann landete das Video dieses Acts auf Youtube und ihre Inbox begann, sich mit Fanpost von unbekanntem Männern zu füllen. Aus den Texten dieser E-Mails voll sexueller Fantasien und Projektionen entwickelt Martinez in einer feministischen Stand-Up-Comedy schrille Karikaturen ihrer unerwünschten Verehrer und stellt ihnen persönliche Anekdoten aus ihrem eigenen Leben gegenüber. Eine rasante Recherche über Besessenheit, Missverständnisse, Einsamkeit und Identitäten entfaltet sich.

Nachdem sie bei Gruppen wie Forced Entertainment als Performerin tätig war, startete **Ursula Martinez** in den 90ern ihre Solokarriere in Londons Club- und Cabaret-Szene. Nun kreierte sie mit dieser Erfahrung Theaterproduktionen, die sich irgendwo zwischen den Genres bewegen.

Einfach gesagt:

Ursula Martinez hat einmal eine Zaubershow gemacht. Darin hat sie sich nackt ausgezogen. Ein Video davon ist im Internet gelandet und fremde Männer haben ihr daraufhin E-Mails geschrieben. In diesem Stück erzählt sie auf sehr lustige Art von diesen E-Mails und von ihrem Leben.

ANKÜNDIGUNG DER GRUPPE

Ursula Martinez has written some true stories. After her infamous magic striptease act Hanky Panky was illicitly posted online, some strangers started sending her unbelievable emails.

Following sell-out seasons around the world including The Barbican (London), Sydney Opera House, Brighton International Festival and La Fondation Cartier (Paris) Olivier Award-winning performance provocateur Martinez, invites you to meet the ordinary and extraordinary characters in her life and in her inbox.

Combining stand-up, live art and character comedy, My Stories, Your Emails is a comical and uncompromising portrait of herself, and an investigation into confession, obsession, miscommunication, relationships, loneliness, sex, identity the internet..... and what happens when your private parts go public!

In 2006, a recording of Ursula Martinez's infamous magic/striptease act 'Hanky Panky' was posted on the Internet, without her permission. The clip very quickly went 'viral' and Ursula was inundated with emails from fans and admirers all over the world. This was the inspirational catalyst for her show.

As the title suggests, My Stories, Your Emails is in two sections. In the first section Martinez recounts real stories and experiences from her life. In the second section she relays some of the unsolicited emails sent to her by strangers.

Juxtaposing Martinez's true stories, with the fantasies expressed by her admirers, 'My Stories, Your Emails' highlights the disparity between the real person and the iconised public figure. It also questions what happens to an artist's work when it is placed in the wrong context, and becomes available to anyone who has access to the Internet. Throughout the show Martinez assumes the voices and personalities of the diverse characters she introduces; from family members very close to her, to men she has never met offering their hand in marriage.

From this wider perspective the show is not about Ursula at all, but about ordinary people, human interaction, miscommunication and the internet. Hanky Panky is not performed live during the show, however the aforementioned video clip is shown during the performance.

BIO DER BETEILIGTEN

Ursula Martinez is a writer, performance artist and director. She studied French and Theatre at Lancaster University and began her career in contemporary theatre, working with experimental companies such as Forced Entertainment and The Glee Club. In the mid 90's, she started performing solo on the London club/cabaret scene, and very quickly made a name for herself.

A few years later Martinez combined her experimental theatre background with her cabaret experience. Working with collaborator Mark Whitelaw she created A Family Outing. An autobiographical show starring herself and her parents, it was a huge success at the 1998 Edinburgh Festival and subsequently toured internationally to great critical acclaim.

"It's hilarious, devilish and brilliant: Martinez has, if you like, created a new theatrical genre." The Independent On Sunday on A Family Outing.

Martinez and Whitelaw created two more autobiographical pieces. Together with A Family Outing they completed a trilogy of work entitled Me Me Me! which Martinez presented at the Barbican as part of B.I.T.E 06.

Other solo shows include My Stories, Your Emails, co-missioned by Barbican B.I.T.E 2010 and Free Admission commissioned by SouthBank, London. Her most recent project Wild Bore is a new collaboration with Adrienne Truscott (US) and Zoe Coombs Marr (Australia), commissioned by The Malthouse in Melbourne.

Martinez is an associate artist with performance provocateurs 'Duckie' with whom she created the Olivier Award-winning show C'est Duckie. She is also an original cast member of the internationally acclaimed Olivier Award-winning contemporary circus/variety phenomena La Clique and La Soiree.

As a director, Martinez co-directed award-winning Office Party with writer/ come-

dian Christopher Green, Victoria Melodiy's Northern Soul and most recently Lucy McCormick, in her smash-hit, sell-out show Triple Threat. Alongside directing, Martinez has recently undertaken a number of mentoring projects. She also frequently gives performance workshops, nationally and internationally and lectures to performing arts undergraduates. For all her theatrical accolades, because of the internet, Martinez is probably most well known for pulling red hankies out of her vagina!

Mark Whitelaw is a writer, director, and dramaturg. After graduating in Theatre from Crewe and Alsager College with a first class honors degree, he formed The Glee Club Performance Company with whom he created 14 national and international touring shows, including 'Cotton Mather' (winner of Manchester Evening News Theatre Award, and Barclays New Stages, 1995). As well as his work with The Glee Club, Mark has collaborated with numerous international theatre companies, dance companies and solo artists, including Peter Zegveld (Holland), Mem Morrison, The People Show, Norddans (Sweden), Insomniac Productions, Bedlam Dance Company, H2 Dance, and Shamshad Khan. He is the director in residence with iconic London performance collective Duckie, with whom he has directed several projects, including C'est Barbican, which won an Olivier Award and a Time Out award in 2003 for Best Entertainment. Mark Whitelaw has worked with Ursula Martinez for 20 years. Their first collaboration was A Family Outing in 1998. Since then they have made 6 theatre shows. Mark was awarded the Arts Foundation Award Fellowship for Multi-Disciplinary Arts in 1995.

www.ursulamartinez.com

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PRESSE

“...an utterly riveting, compellingly uncompromising show that is highly recommended...”

Manchester Evening News

“...a big star in the making”

The Daily Telegraph

“My Stories, Your Emails is a consistently hilarious exploration of the gap between her idea of herself and those projected on to her. The show feels like a reclamation. It’s also very very funny”

The Australian

“This is very funny, as well as disturbing in its illustration of the perils of unsought celebrity”

London Evening Standard

“The work’s construction is as clever as the writing. Martinez always manages to deliver more than she promises... which is, perhaps, why she’s well worth stalking.”

Herald Sun (Australia)

My Stories, Your Emails.

von Lyn Gardner, in: The Guardian, 3.2.2010

“Has anyone come for pervy reasons, basically just for a glimpse of hot middle-aged minge?” asks Ursula Martinez brightly, before apologising for the picture of a 19-centimetre erect penis she shows, and her terrible Swedish accent. Martinez, one of theatre’s most nonconformist talents and probably best-known for her La Clique performances, has made a career out of apparent self-revelation. When Martinez stands on stage you think that you are getting the real thing. Sometimes you get the entire family, as in 1998’s A Family Outing, a brilliant Mr and Mrs-style theatrical game show, performed with her mum and dad. Her famous magic striptease leaves little to the imagination as she subverts the strip and ratchets up the tease with a wink. The joke is always on us. But in 2006, the act was filmed without her permission and posted on the web, after which she received a flood of emails from men who wanted to get to know her better. I’d like to get to know Martinez better, too, but as befits a woman who once made a piece called Show Off, this 60-minute show only highlights the gaps between illusion and reality; the image we present of ourselves to the world and how we really are. It is an - interesting idea, particularly in the age of the internet when many of us live our lives to some extent in the public domain. But while the show is often hilariously funny and powered by Martinez’s puckish wit, it often treads obvious ground, and in highlighting the difference between illusion and reality, comes perilously close to double-dealing in its treatment of the deluded men who contacted her.