

WAUHAUS
Arts — collective



Renaissance

“Fantasy is what establishes the possible in excess of the real. It points elsewhere, and when it is embodied, it brings the elsewhere home.” - Judith Butler

The stage of *Renaissance* is a place of dreaming and reimagining. The performance evokes mythical bodies through which fantasies become flesh.

In the performance the stage is taken over by tameless, bucking centaurs. The centaur, a mythical creature that is half-human and half-horse, is a hybrid body that refuses to fit into any mould. The queer centaurs of the performance manifest the entanglement of sexuality, gender, wildness and pleasure in all their messiness.

This exploration of fantastic bodies is linked to the deconstruction of gender and sexuality. In this work, the biopolitical norms that are used to restrain our bodies are transformed into a biopoetical approach – a quest for a space where bodies can renew themselves and reinvent their form again and again.

Renaissance lures the audience into a queer world of wonder, pleasure, and strangeness. The performance asks, what would magic be without illusion? How can we re-enthrall ourselves in a world where centuries of colonialism, capitalism, and patriarchal domination have left us disconnected from the land, from each other, and from our own imagination? The work is loosely framed around the Renaissance as a period of artistic, cultural and ideological upheaval in Europe during the 15th and 16th centuries. The performance flirts with this era that defines our current world order and asks whether a period that began 600 years ago has finally come to an end through the ongoing eco-crisis? *Renaissance* reaches out towards a new time, towards various fantastical worlds, connections and reconnections, pleasure and perversity. It proposes a new order (or disorder) and way of being in the world.

Photo from Felicity Hammond's SHOW ROOM: THE LANGUAGE OF LIVING. Image credit: Nigel Green
Small picture: From the working groups first stage residency. © Sinem Kayacan





Big picture: Donna Huaraca: VEINS/PHYSICAL BODY (Scrawls), 2016 (detail). Photograph: Thierry Bal.
Small picture: From the working groups first stage residency. © Sinem Kayacan



The picture is from the working groups first stage residency. © Sinem Kayacan

Renaissance is a stage work for five performers. The performance is aimed for stages with approximately 150–300 seats. The premiere will take place at Dance House Helsinki in December 2024, and is co-produced by WAUHAUS and Zodiak - Centre for New Dance.

We cannot change reality unless we first change our imagination.

WAUHAUS is a Helsinki-based multidisciplinary arts collective. The works of WAUHAUS are situated between different genres of art and take place at various venues from small black box theatres to urban sites, large stadiums, and the main stages of established theatre houses. The members of WAUHAUS are scenographer **Laura Haapakangas**, director **Juni Klein**, scenographer **Samuli Laine**, sound designer **Jussi Matikainen**, choreographer **Jarkko Partanen**, new media artist **Jani-Matti Salo**, sound designer **Heidi Soidinsalo**, and producer **Julia Hovi**.

Contact:

WAUHAUS producer Julia Hovi, production@wauhaus.fi, +358 452774560