

Mikko Niemistö:

GLASS EYES



Photo: August Joensalo

Glass Eyes is an upcoming stage piece by choreographer Mikko Niemistö. In collaboration with spatial and lighting designer Sofia Palillo, dancer Marika Peura and violinist Elias Riipinen, the piece places the human body in the intersection of science, magic and mysticism. Glass Eyes is set to premiere in 2025 at Zodiak - Center for New Dance, Helsinki.

Description of the performance



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Glass Eyes happens in a visual environment that resembles a mash-up of a science experiment and a ritual site. The spatial design is based on glass objects created by Sofia Palillo, who practices glass blowing. These objects will be mostly abstract, creating some associations to laboratory equipment, ceremonial objects, liquids and human organs. Through touch and manipulation, the choreography playfully approaches the fine line between medical and magical healing practices. Occasionally the performance ventures into horror movie territory through imagery inspired by exorcism and body possession. Violinist Elias Riipinen is active on stage, bringing his instrument in contact (and conflict) with the bodies of the performers.

By oscillating between the scientific and the magical, Glass Eyes aims to challenge our view of humanness as something that can be explained solely through biology or medical science. It embraces the unknown and hidden parts of the body by emphasizing things like the pre-conscious, dreams and omens. Glass Eyes broadens the view of the human body from the capitalistic era to history before the scientific revolution, when the supernatural was more entangled with science and medicine. The piece also reflects philosopher Michel Foucault's term "the medical gaze", in which in a medical context, the body of the patient becomes an object of information.



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Video

Work-in-progress teaser:

<https://www.vimeo.com/864741994>

Workspacebrussels, June 2023, Video by Bo Vloors

Credits

Artistic concept and choreography: Mikko Niemistö
Performance: Mikko Niemistö, Marika Peura and Elias Riipinen
Spatial and lighting design: Sofia Palillo
Composition and live violin: Elias Riipinen
Production: Zodiak and Mikko Niemistö
Residencies: workspacebrussels
Supported by: The Finnish Cultural Foundation, Arts Promotion Center Finland



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Biography

Mikko Niemistö is a choreographer and performer based in Helsinki, Finland. He creates stage pieces where different forms of art engage in dialogue, often with a special focus on sound and music. He graduated as a Master of Fine Arts in Choreography from Stockholm's School of Dance and Circus in 2017. In his works, Niemistö explores the formulation of the self through silent knowledge and accumulations of bodily memories. His interests lie in the shattered realities of contemporary culture and things that linger in the background, like noise and the flow of consciousness. He currently focuses on the shadow zones of everyday reality, like dreaming, protesting and the supernatural.

His works have been shown e.g. Zodiak - (Finland), Moving in November festival (Finland), Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art (Finland) Inkonst (Sweden), far° festival (Switzerland), CCN de Caen (France) and ImPulsTanz festival (Austria), where his solo work Odd Meters received the jury's special mention in the [8:tension], young choreographer's series in 2022.

niemisto.mikko@gmail.com / www.mikkoniemisto.com / +358 50 3659 038