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## LIVRE D'IMAGES SANS IMAGES – L'IVRESSE DES PROFONDEURS / STAMSUND THEATRE FESTIVAL 2023

di Francesco Chiaro - Maggio 27, 2023



### AND THE MOON SAID “NIGHT”

*On a cold, snowy Friday evening, Stamsund Theatre Festival softly breaches the silence of forgetfulness, reminding us that regardless of where they come from, be it high up in the sky or deep down in the sea, words can still puncture the distance between intention and action.*

#### Italian Abstract

A large, immaculate piece of paper limned by a ring of crimson cushions, a record player, a mic and some markers. A woman and a girl sitting on the milk-white expanse. An audience onlooking, heavy with gravity. «Let's begin again». A game of words starts between the duo, an invocation of images -a recollection perhaps-, an ideation: «Between space and thing? Repetition. Between a word and the next? Pause. Between presence and absence? Theatre».

Inspired, amongst other works, also by H.C. Andersen's *Livre d'images sans images*, aka *The Moon Chronicler*, which follows «a conversation between a painter and the moon, and addresses inspiration, imagination, storytelling and translation», Mette Edvardsen's performance proposes a meteorological exercise in reversed nephelomancy (or divination by clouds) in which the

clearing up of the sky verbalizes a refracted past while the fleeting shadows of sparsely accumulated silences draw a tangible present. Indeed, through the at times soothing, at times soporific non-language fabling of a satellite unhinged from its orbit, **Livre d'images sans images** (Book of Images without Images) draws on the luminous reflections of bygone ideas mirrored against an otherwise dark lunar terrain, holding onto unfettered stories that quickly leak away in the ink-black murk of night. And when the prestige of the voiced falls, that of silence arises, keeping things open until time is perforated again by sound.

By «working with different medias (recordings, text, voice, drawings, references, found images, loose connections, inspirations and imaginations) that do not hold together in unity», the Norwegian choreographer and performer distances herself from canonical forms, inviting spectators to follow a mercurial trace in which everything seems to talk about a loss and the need to constantly rebuild the memory of what once was so as to give meaning to what still is, intimately retying yesterday to today.

And remembering is also what Cie 1001's **L'ivresse des profondeurs** (Rapture of the Deep) begs us to do. Drinking fully from a long and educated lore drenched in fabulous creatures, ethnic epics and apotropaic rituals, the Iranian company embarks on a perilous narrative journey -a forced displacement, really- in order to explain to a younger audience (and to remind to an older one, too) how disfiguring war can be – and how memory and sharing stories can help us escape from the intoxicating abyss of obliviousness.

Standing «at the crossroads between visual theatre and the art of storytelling», director, performer and puppet-designer Sayeh Sirvani establishes a dialogue between traditional heritage and contemporary creations, thus summoning a phantasmagorical world filled with awe-inspiring simplicity and impactful aesthetics. Armed with ingenious and very

political poetics, this modern *Naqqāli* artfully puts together fugitive mermaids, resilient refugees and terrifying monsters, concocting a plea for unity and resistance capable of piercing through the thick, gooey membrane of violence and oppression with effulgent clarity. Moreover, through exotic yet potent incursions into the Persian language, Sirvani succeeds in mesmerising the audience completely, who then follows her with mouth agape amongst the bloody ruins of pain and suffering, enthralled and, at the same time, terribly aware of the crunching of bones underneath its feet, and of the lifeless, floating bodies around it.

If the only cure for the rapture of the deep -this metaphorical drunkenness of the conscience- is talking to someone, then **L'ivresse des profondeurs**, with its overflow of tales, may be just what we needed to safely resurface to humanity.

**The shows were played within 2023 Stamsund Theatre Festival**  
Stamsund – Norway, various locations

18:30

**Teater NOR**

J. M. Johansens Vei 97 – Stamsund

Friday 26 May 2023

**Livre d'images sans images**

by Mette Edvardsen

with Mette Edvardsen, Iben Edvardsen, Bruno Pocheron  
light and technical support Bruno Pocheron, Agnar Ribe  
production Mette Edvardsen/Athome, Andrea Skotland  
residency support Black Box teater (Oslo)  
co-production Kaaitheater (Brussels), BUDA (Kortrijk), Black Box teater (Oslo),  
Centre chorégraphique national de Caen in Normandie (Caen)  
supported by Norsk Kulturråd  
title from H.C. Andersen's *Billedbog uden billeder*

20:00

**Figurteatret I Nordland**

J. M. Johansens Vei 23 – Stamsund

Friday 26 and Saturday 27 May 2023

**L'ivresse des profondeurs**

by Cie 1001

direction, performance, construction Sayeh Sirvani  
written by Mahmoud Ahadinia, Leyla Hekmatnia  
translated and re-written by Sayeh Sirvani, Coraline Charnet  
assistant director Coraline Charnet  
exterior view Nicole Mossoux  
sound design Alex Derouet  
lighting design Antoine Lenoir  
musical composition Parva Karkhaneh  
English translation Teresa Ondruskova  
German translation the students of the Master I and II of the Translation and  
Interpreting course at the University of Liège, Germanic orientation, under

the direction of Myriam-Naomi Walburg  
delegated production Festival Mondial des Théâtres de Marionnettes de  
Charleville-Mézières

co-production Tas de Sable-Ches Panses Vertes – lieu conventionné art de la  
marionnette-Amiens  
with the support of the Institut International de la Marionnette – in the  
framework of a residency Tremplin – Charleville-Mézière – le LEM – lieu de  
création – Nancy – Université de Liège Théâtre Louis Jouvét scène  
conventionnée d'intérêt national – art et création – Rethel Compagnie  
Mossoux-Bonté in the framework of the residency for the revival in April 2022  
– Brussels

