



Mudar Al Haggi

عندما تبكي فرح | When Farah cries | Wenn Farah weint

„When Farah cries“ is the debut of a theatre piece of syrian playwright Mudar AL Haggi, put on stage by Theater Arbeit Duisburg | TAD in cooperation with the author and Schaubude Berlin.

„When Farah cries“ is the third part of the trilogy „Now T_here“. It has been initiated in the context of an artistic collaboration between TAD, kitev (Kultur im Turm e.V.) and Ettijahat- Independent Culture/ Syria which started in 2012. As a result of this collaboration, two performances (Now T_here 1 & 2) have been developed and staged in Berlin and the Ruhr Region in 2013.

Ongoing research on the syrian revolution, the war (call it civil-/religious/international-and/or proxy-war) as well as a short story written in 2013 build the (indirect) base of „When Farah cries“. The real horrors of war are always present, but not shown directly.

The piece, already finalized in 2014, has even then been anachronistic. In the midst of actual political debates Mudar Al Haggi puts light on a more and more invisible background. Slogans like „We have to fight reasons for migration and flight“ and EU-strategies form the cynical mirror image for all those that managed to escape war against all odds.

Mudar Al Haggi tells the story of a time that was (collectively and individually) motivated by hope for a different future. This future is not his and not our present as the title of the piece indicates („Farah“ means „joy“ in arabic). In between actual political debates and emotional hysteria, the play becomes a memorial for a murdered future. It makes you think, and it is as sad as a silent, cold lake.

The work is realized with syrian actors that fled to Berlin (professionals and amateurs), some of them collaborating with TAD since 2013 and in actual projects „Uns gehört die Stadt“ and „Rummelplatz“. „When Farah cries“ is dealing with their personal experiences – at the same time the work with material and objects creates an artificial distance.

Just the role of the „officer“ is performed by TAD-actor Andre Lewski (a collaborator in Now T_here 1 & 2 as well), because of political reasons: the borders and their controls have been moved (from the syrian-jordanian towards the european).

Premiere of „When Farah cries“ is Saturday, Sept. 24th, in Schaubude Berlin. From Oct. 4th-9th it will be shown in 5 venues in the Ruhr Region.

„When Farah cries“ is performed in three languages: arabic, english, german.

** „Now T_here, Part I+II“ cf.: <http://kitev.de/de/entry/161/tandem-arab-201213/de>

** Mudar Al Haggi cf.: <http://www.schauspielhaus-graz.com/team-detail/mudar-alhaggi>

** The theatre piece „When Farah Cries“: <http://ecflabs.org/sites/www.ecflabs.org/files/another-europe/Another-Europe-Stage-Play.pdf>