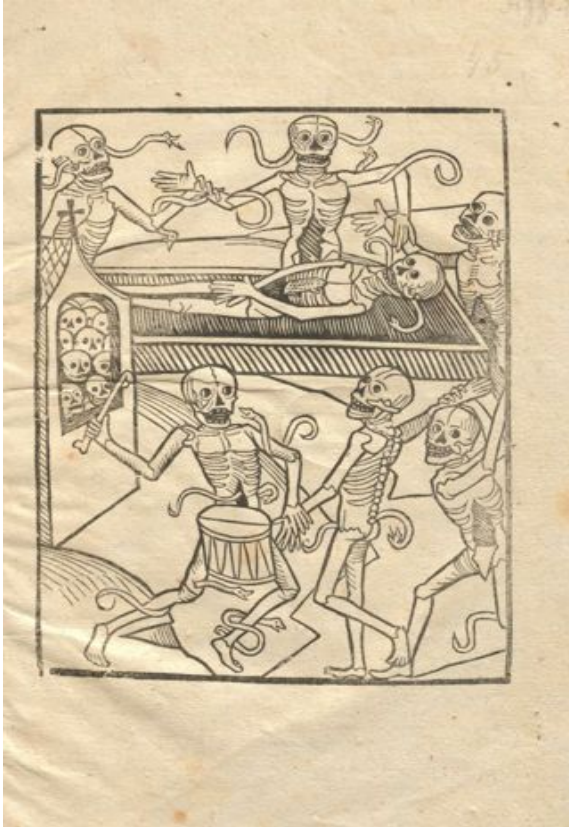


## Death. Exercises and variations



Concept, choreography: Renata Piotrowska

Performance: Renata Piotrowska / Ula Zerek

Dramaturgy: Bojana Bauer

Lights: Ewa Garniec and Joanna Leśnierowska

Production: Burda Foundation

Partners: Centrum w Ruchu (Warsaw), CSW – Contemporary Art Castle in Warsaw /Pologne, La Briquetrie in Val de Marne (Paris), CND Pantin (Paris), STSpot Theatre (Yokohama), Soho Theatre (Warsaw), Art Stations Foundation (Poznań),

Premiere: October 2014

### **Text from the programme:**

Death is one thing that cannot be experienced. It is an irreversible event from which one doesn't come back. With the person gone, the possibility of experience vanishes with it.

To this philosophical statement, in her new performance, polish choreographer and performer Renata Piotrowska, with a distance and humor, opposes the experience of theatre, understood by the theorist Peggy Phelan as the place in which society "rehearses for loss, and especially for death."

Piotrowska's solo "Death. Exercises and variations" embodies this rehearsal quite literally. As she attempts to stage the encounter with death, she goes through different scenarios making up a performative diptych that travels through centuries of (in)experience with death while she draws on its artistic, cultural and social representations.

Based on the observations that the contemporary body aspires to defy dying more then ever, and that the omnipresence of death in the media is conversed by its evacuation from our everyday lives, she turns to some historical hallmarks associated with the issues of death and dying, such as dance macabre, ritualistic repetition, personification, violence, exhaustion, gore or eroticism.

Choreographing it as an elusive partner through its many faces, Piotrowska is trying to track our understanding, or lack thereof of death today.

### **REWIEVS (fragments):**

*„Excellent concept of Renata Piotrowska and estonishing interpretation of Ula Zerek do not let us to forget that danse macabre is not only esthetico-philosophical category from the past“.*

Stefan Drajewski, daily journal Głos Wielkopolski, June 2015

*„After breath taking first part, where Piotrowska uses cultural representations of danse macabre, in the second part it is exactly the sceleton which is a sign of death. Death, seen from contemporary perspective, supressed from social consciousness, but in the same time very visible and literal, deprived from any symbolism. Danse macabre motif is for Piotrowska and her intelligent and moving performance the dance of restoring life, based on understanding her own body, so also its mortatlity.“*

Karolina Wycisk, taniecPOLSKA.pl, May 2015

*„In Piotrowska's work mortality is a permanent feature of choreography, which, being a practice that organises matter in time and space, produces images and bodies that are in the star of constant decay.“*

Mateusz Szymanówka, Journal Dwutygodnik, October 2014

**Renata Piotrowska** is a choreographer, director and performer; in her works she uses tools of contemporary dance, specially its experimental trends and performative arts.

Piotrowska confronts choreography with conceptual thinking. In her works, next to the research in perception and kinesthetic empathy, she contemplates contemporary world through deriving the inspirations from life experiences and theoretical texts from human sciences.

She created: „Now“ / 2007, „Dancing with the Enemy“ / 2007, UNKNOWN series / 2008-2010, „breaj ART OF THE WAR“ / 2010, UNKNOWN.SEANCE“ / 2011, videodance „Inside“ / 2011, „The Forest“\_work in progress / 2013, „Death. Exercices and variations“ / 2014. In 2008 and 2010 her performances: „Dancing with the Enemy“ and „Unknown“ were chosen for the Polish Dance Platform.

She worked in such places as: CSW Contemporary Art Castle in Warsaw, National Gallery „Zachęta“ in Warsaw, Nowy Theatre, Theatre Studio, Ochota Theatre and Theatre Institute in Warsaw, Art Stations Foundation and Cultural Center „Zamek“ in Poznan, National Choreographic Center in Montpellier, National Dance Center in Paris, National Scene in St.Brieuc.

Piotrowska worked also with theatre directors creating choreographies for theatre pieces (Maria Kwiecień, Ewa Piotrowska, Konrad Dworakowski).

She received scholarships from Adam Mickiewicz Institute, Art Stations Foundation and Ministry of Culture and National Heritage in Poland, programme „Młoda Polska“ (2010) and „Stypendium Ministra“ (2013).

In the years 2007-2011 she leded regular improvistation, contact improvisation and body awarness classes in Warsaw and workshops in Poland and abroad. She is a creator of educational programme on dance „Mam ochotę na taniec” in Ochota Theatre in Warsaw, which envisages combination of theory and practice and co-creator of annual course of experimental choreography organized by Burdag Foundation.

Piotrowska graduated from master choreographic programme ex.e.r.ce. in Montpellier and Theatre Academy in Białystok.

She is a member of choreographer’s platform from Warsaw – Center in Motion.

[www.renatapiotrowska.pl](http://www.renatapiotrowska.pl)

Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/112046636>