THEATER LIGHTDESIGN

THE UGLY LIGHT

2

ENGLISH EDITION

realized by

BENJAMIN SCHÄLIKE



BENJAMIN SCHÄLIKE

2 FISH/Lightdesign

Alexander Charim/Lightdesign

Felix Marchand/Lightdesign

HZT /UDK Berlin/Lightseminar

Hanna Hegenscheidt/Lightdesign

Dance On/Lightdesign

Dance On/Tecnical Director

Hans-Werner Kroesinger/Lightdesign

Byung Hoon Lee (Seoul)/Lightdesign

Tanztage Berlin/Tecnical Director

Hermann Heisig/Lightdesign

Ernst Busch School for Choreografie/Lightseminar

Hyoung-Min Kim/Lightdesign

Lupita Pulpo/Lightdesign

Jee Ae Lim/Lightdesign

Martin Clausen/Lightdesign

Adam Lindner/Lightdesign

Rabiha Mroue/Lightdesign

Santiago Blaum/Lightdesign

She She Pop/Lightdesign

Love Parade Berlin/Lighting Master

Soo Eun Lee/Lightdesign

Sommer Ulrickson/Lightdesign

HFG Karlsruhe/Lightseminar

Peter Zadek/Lightdesign

William Forseyth/Lightdesign

Uferstudios Berlin/Tecnical Director

University of Art Montevideo (Urugray)/Lightseminar

White Horse/Lightdesign

Tanz im August/Tecnical Director

Kunstakademie Düsseldorf/Lightseminar

Impulse Tanz Wien/Lighting Maste

Jeongho Nam (Korean National Contamporary Dance Caompany (Seoul)/Lightdesign

Expo 2000/Lighting Master

Mobile Akademie/Tecnical Director

Hans Werner Klohe/Lightdesign

Korean Natinal University of Art (Seoul)/Lightseminar

Total Brutal - Nir De Wolff/Lightdesign

Ruhrfestspiele Recklinghausen/Lighting Master

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The spectator

does not get the piece

as a gift.

He gets the service

of having to do it himself.

(Peter Brook)



LIGHTS



NICHT MIT DIESEN BLAUEN BÄNDERN Choreography : Hanna Hegenscheidt Light : Benjamin Schälike

DONT RECOGNIZE ME Choreography : Hanna Hegenscheidt Light : Benjamin Schälike

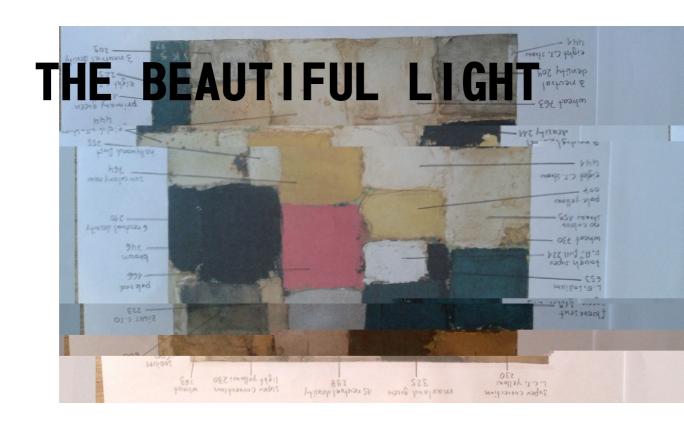




360°

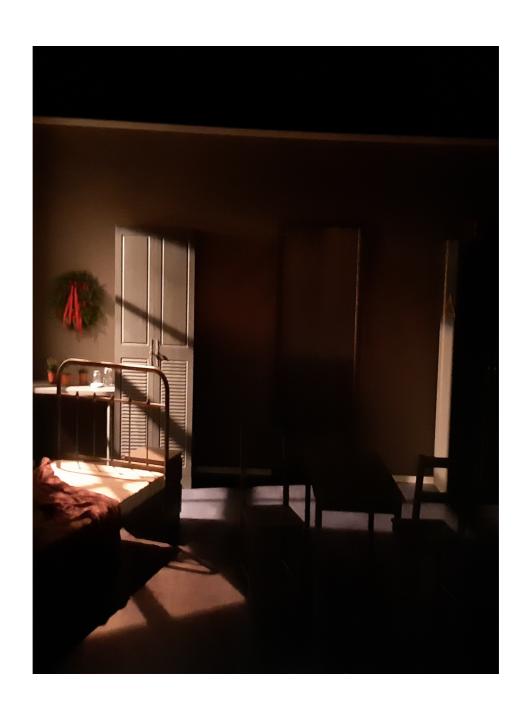
Choreography : Moonsok Choi and Yamila Kadir Light : Benjamin Schälike

THE BEAUTIFUL LIGHT

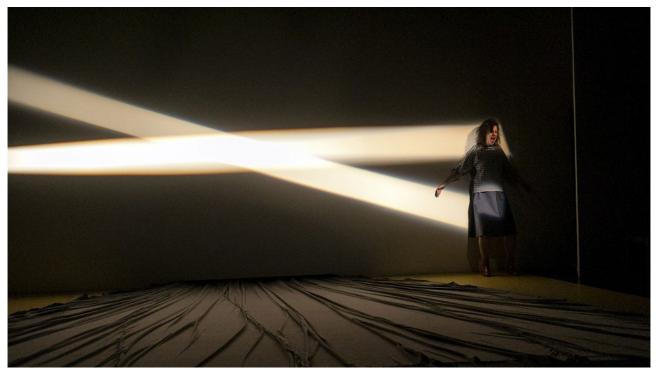


DIE ATTACKE DER ZWISCHENRÄUME

(Karsten Schälike, Oil painting, cataloge: Provokation des Sehens)



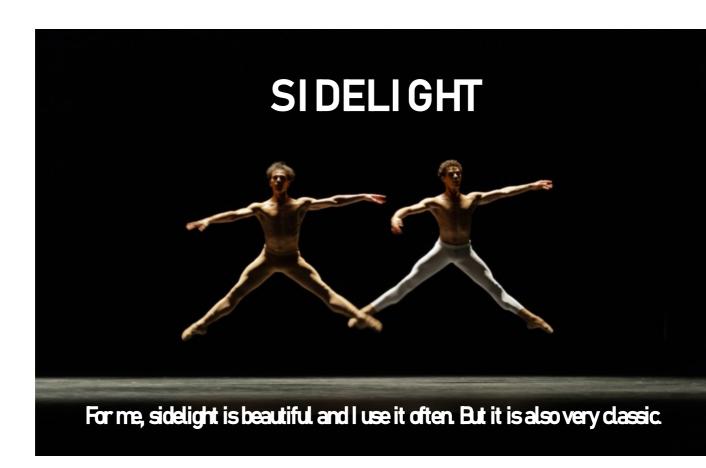
MERRY CHRISTMAS DIRECTOR: LIGHTDESIGHN: YOU CAN EXPRESS VERY, VERY STRONG FEELINGS WITH PICTURES. AND AMAZINGLY, MOST OF THEM ARE PICTURES THAT WE CALL SO-CALLED "ZERO PICTURES" IN THE SPECIAL jargon — THE PICTURES THAT ACTUALLY HAVE NO MEANING. IN "THE MARRIAGE OF MARIA BRAUN" THERE IS A SCENE THAT I ALWAYS REMEMBER, WHICH FOR ME IS A TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF WHAT PICTURES CAN



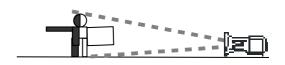
Theater Tikwa: Oz Oz Oz

Light: Benjamin Schälike

EXPRESS. THERE IS A SCENE IN WHICH MARIA BRAUN LEARNS THAT HER HUSBAND HAS DIED. SHE GOES TO A DRAIN, TURNS ON A FAUCET, AND HOLDS HER HAND UNDER THAT FAUCET. THIS IS THE PICTURE. THIS PICTURE ACTUALLY TELLS MORE THAN THE FACE OF A CRYING WOMAN. IT IS A SYMBOL OF TEARS, A SYMBOL FOR CRYING, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOW IT, IT HAPPENS IN THE VIEWER'S HEAD. SUCH THINGS ARE EXTREMELY BEAUTIFUL. THIS IS THAT THE GREAT ART OF PICTURE-MAKING BEGINS — WHERE PICTURES TELL MORE THAN WORDS CAN TELL.



Sidelight makes bodies very plastic. If you use profilelights, positioned on floor stands, it is possible via the slider/cutter to take the light off the stage floor. The spectators only see the light on the bodies. The bodies get something weightless. – "flying over the floor" This effect is often used in dance, especially in ballet. (Text: Benjamin Schälike)









Wilson creates collages of images with slow, slow-motion sequences that often seem autistic..



THE UGLY LIGHT



· · · sat

in silence

and waited

for the light

(W. Pilbow)



Why I like

FLOODLIGHT

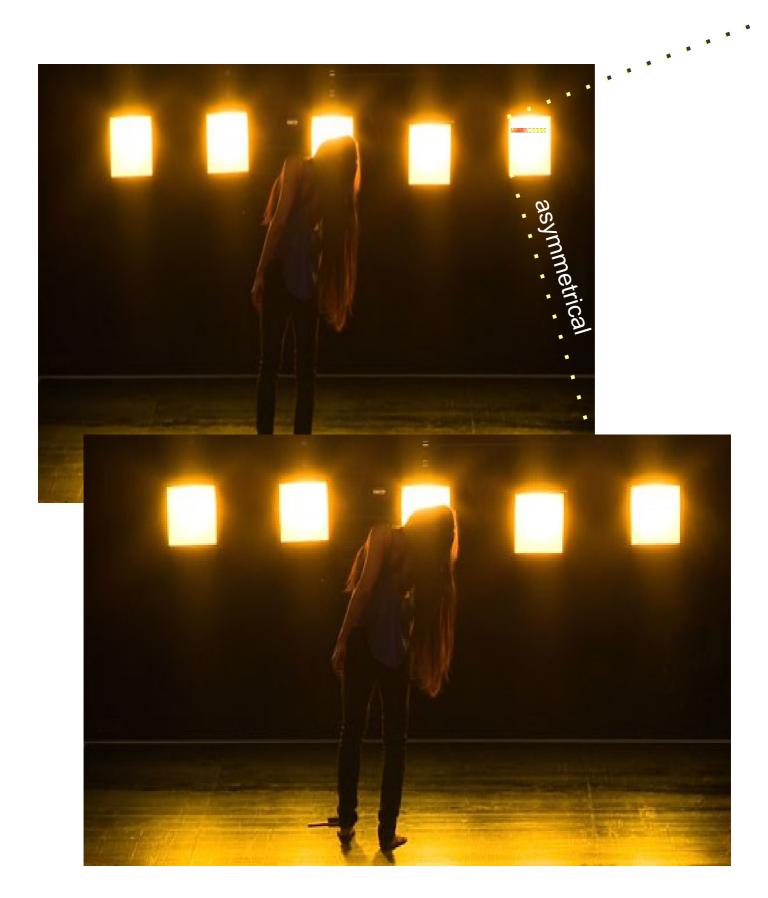
I often work in open-stage spaces where all the stage technology is visible. Nevertheless, I like to keep the stage area "clean", to avoid visible spotlights. The viewer perceives everything the moment they enter the auditorium and begins to build up expectations. Floodlights don't look like headlights They are flat and inconspicuous. If the viewer is presented with an open stage and hardly finds any indication of the following technical processes, he will go into the upcoming show more openly. The use of floodlights is very helpful for this (my preference for headlights also stems from this. Spotlights in the back or above the heads of the spectators are less visible).

Floodlights have an extremely high beam angle and, the design makes it square. Stages are also square; sometimes one floodlight is enough as a top light to illuminate the entire set. A spotlight isn't particularly bright, of course. That means I can cover the whole stage with one spotlight and an accentuating light in a very short setup time (floodlights are also focused quickly). Time saved that I can invest in rehearsals and cueing with the artists.

In principle, I like to use as few spotlights as possible, preferably one to get a clear shadow or a clear shadow direction or no shadow (e.g. with a floodlight top over the actor.

(Text:Benjamin Schälike)







WATER BETWEEN THREE HANDS Choreography : Rabia Mroue (Dance On) Light : Benjamin Schälike

My **utopian** idea of light in the theatre is this one big, strong, glaring, yellow spotlight. This yellow stands for warmth, beach, hope, as well as for desert, desolation and nuclearity. This one spotlight is an expression of clarity and of a decision, it hardly allows anything else. It excludes everything else. In the worst case, it (the spotlight) is fascist. (Benjamin Schälike)

THIS IS NOT A GAME

Choreography: Jeongho Nam Light: Benjamin Schälike



A light that could be controlled

without me having

to finish it, that would be my

utopian light.

(Fred Pommerehn)



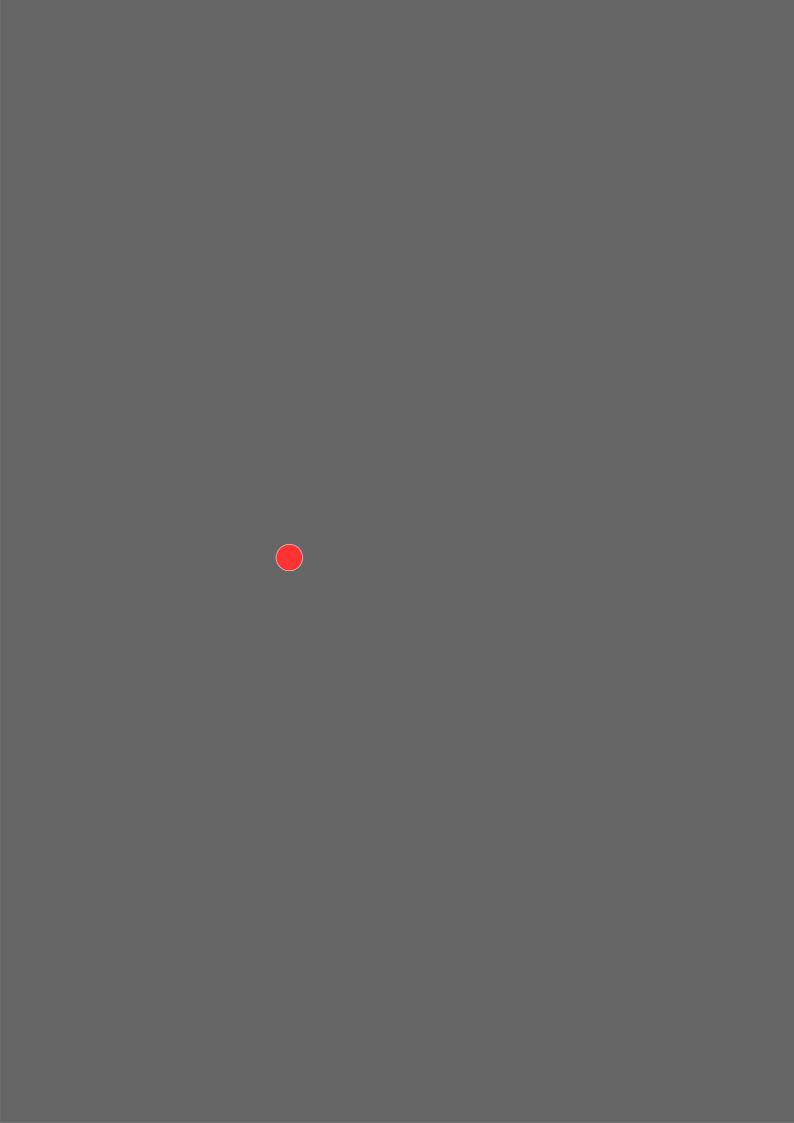
5 EDGES: PLAY / GAME / UNDER FRAGILITY

LIGHT : BENJAMIN SCHÄLIKE





삼호/70/Cipher Choreography : Hyoung Min Kim Light : Benjamin Schälike





GELBE LANDSCHAFTEN Choreography : Hyoung Min Kim Light : Benjamin Schälike



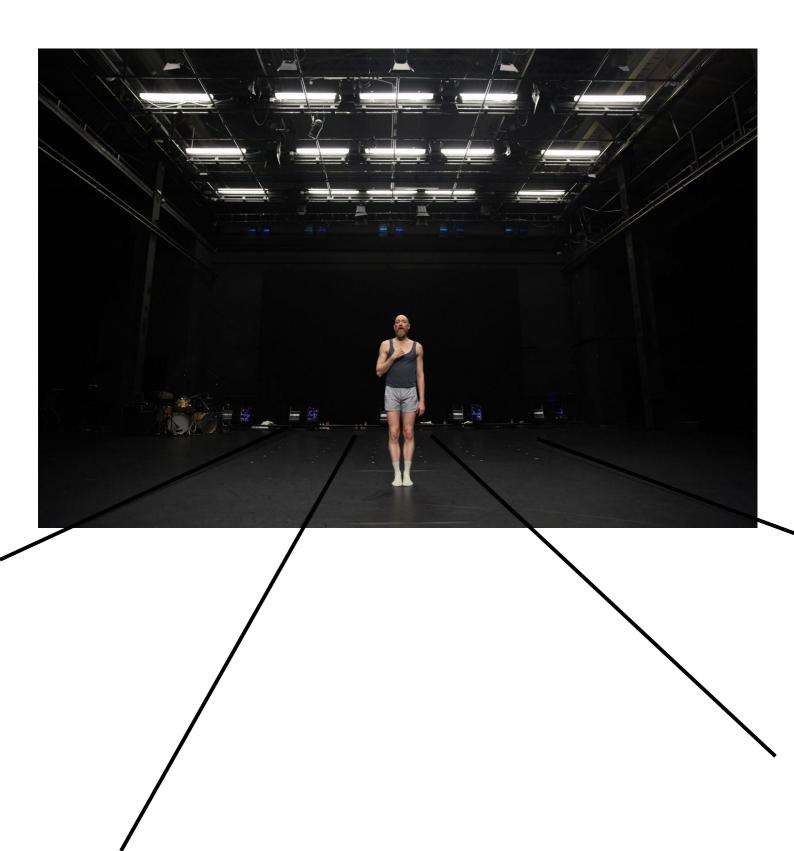
WATER BETWEEN THREE HANDS

Director: Rabia Mroue

Light : Benjamin Schälike

Director : Rabia Mroue

Lightdesign : Benjamin Schälike















LIGH T



ART

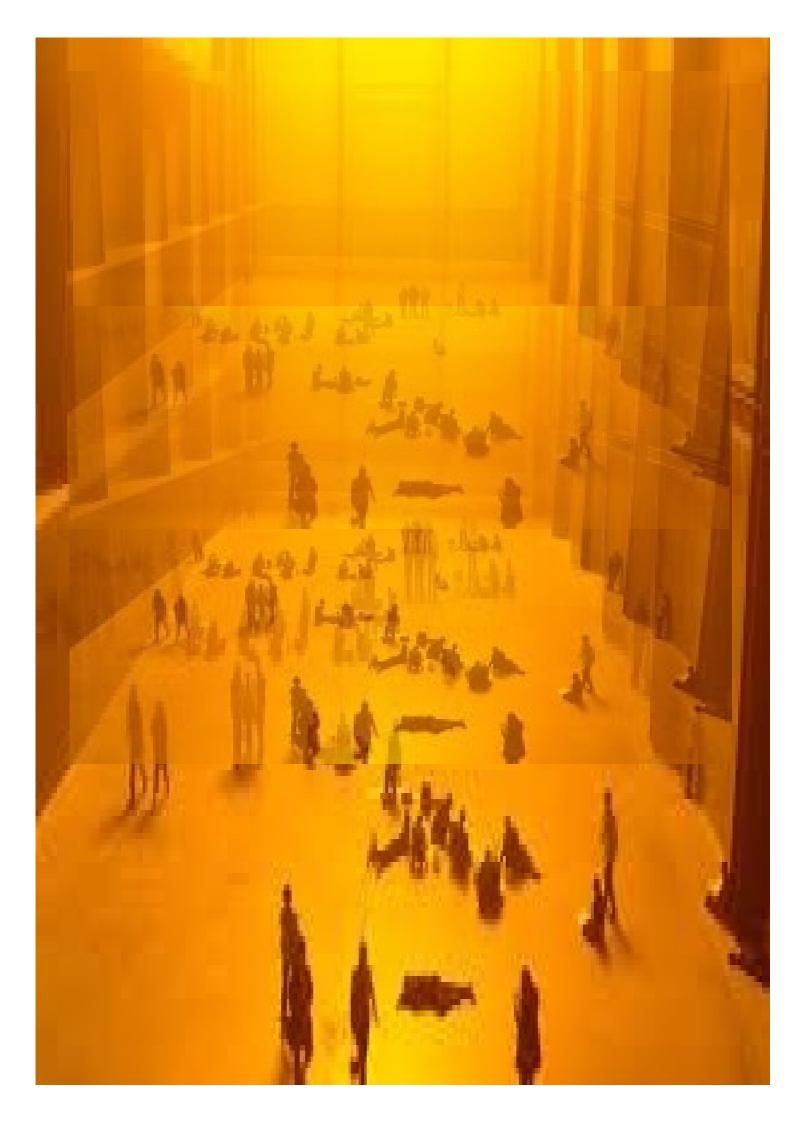
LIGHT



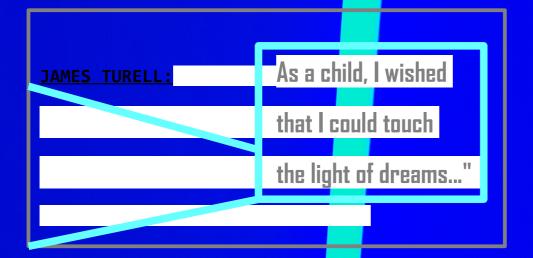
An artist must react to life with his special sensitivity and change it.

(Ai Weiwei)









The color wheel is okay for paint, but you can think of it better if you think of it in light because the light is what reaches our eyes.

We can think of what light irradiates a paint or color and what light comes off it.

In the piece you saw at the Einsteins ("a sky space"), the color of the sky has changed. It's not as though I've changed the color of the sky. That ends up as the result, and it has to do with our prejudiced perception. That's because we "know" a white surface. We're going to read it as a "white" surface. When other colors of light are on it, the only thing that can change is what we have to contrast with it, this open sky. This is why we will change the color of the sky when in fact, the sky has not been changed the color.

I always felt that art was more interested in posing the question than in getting the answer, ... but I've come to more recently think that art is the answer.

I was really interested in light. I was trying to find out what to do with it, how to present it, and what place in the culture to bring it out. It was a little bit difficult. ...So I studied perceptual psychology and the psychology of official perception. And that was a way I came to this and then took this into the art world.

l'm interested in having a light that inhabits space so that you feel light to be physically present.

I mean, light is a substance that is, in fact, a thing, but we don't attribute thing-ness to it..

But the most interesting thing is that light is aware that we are looking at it, so that it behaves differently when we are watching it and when we're not, which imbues it with consciousness.

Often people say that they want to touch some of the work I do. Well, that feeling is actually coming from the fact that the eyes are touching,

In the piece "Sky Space," a daylight space brings the room. This idea that the sky actually comes down right on top of us and that we're at the bottom of this ocean of air is a feeling that I like to strange because this is New York, where you don't usually see the sky like that. But then you come in and hear the sky -- and this is New York sky -- it's beautiful.

New York sky is beautiful.

The history of Western painting has a great deal to do with light and light qualities. Light on a cathedral, like Monet's painting in the Impressionist period: Or Rothko, where the light seems to come out of the surface, out of the paint, where it seems to be a source of light.

l just want to use light. I want light itself.

I just want to have light seem to be physically present and have its presence be there.

JAMES TURELL:

UNTITLED (FOR KSENIJA)

DAN FLAVIN'S INSTALLATION UNTITLED (FOR KSENIJA) PUTS THE KUNSTBAU IN COLORED LIGHT.

ENTERING THE ROOM VIA THE RAMP, IN WHICH STANDARD NEON LIGHTS ARE INSERTED. THE LEFT RAIL IS GREEN AND IS THE ONLY ONE THAT RUNS FROM FRONT TO BACK WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.

TO THE RIGHT OF IT FOLLOW IN EVENLY SPACED BLUE, YELLOW AND RED. EACH INTERRUPTED BY THE ROUND OF THE MEDIA SPACE.

IN FLAVIN'S WORK, HOWEVER, THE SPATIAL EXPERIENCE IS NEITHER SPIRITUAL NOR TRANSCENDENTAL;

THE INTENDED EFFECT IS PROFANE, CREATED BY OBVIOUSLY BANAL, INDUSTRIALLY MANUFACTURED NEONTUBES THAT PRODUCE ARTIFICIAL LIGHT. FLAVIN DELIBERATELY AVOIDS A DRAMATIC STAGING. WHEN DANCERS MOVE IN UNTITLED (FOR KSENIJA), THEY DO NOT ACT ON ANY STAGE SURFACE, BUT ARE CONFRONTED WITH THE WHOLE SPACE OF THE ART BUILDING. THE DANCING BODIES BECOME KINETIC SCULPTURES, WHICH IN TURN HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE APPEARANCE OF THE SPACE.

WHEN THE DANCERS OF THE TRISHA BROWN DANCE COMPANY SHOWED SOME OF THE "EARLY WORKS" IN WHITE SHIRTS AND TROUSERS, THEY TOO - ACCORDING TO THEIR POSITION IN THE SPACE - TOOK THE COLOURED LIGHT ON. THE LIGHT MADE NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WALLS AND THE ARCHITECTURE, SPACE AND DANCERS BECAME ONE. CHOREOGRAPHS HER DANCE PIECES JUST UNDRAMATICALLY AS DAN FLAVIN USES LIGHT IN A ROOM. EVERYDAY ACTIONS ARE STRIPPED OF THEIR PURPOSEFULNESS AND BROKEN DOWN INTO SOMETIMES REDUNDANT SEQUENCES OF MOVEMENT. SHE COLLAGES NEW DANCE SEQUENCES FROM THIS FUND. AS WITH FLAVIN, PROSAIC POETRY EMERGES FROM THE SHEER REALITY OF THE MATERIAL. (Katrin Dillkofer)

DANCE COMPANY

TRISHA BROWN

LIGHTARTIST

DAN FLAVIN

FLUORESCENT TUBES

fluorescent tubes are an excellent way to work with light. when they are visible, the light takes on something instellative and abstract. the handling of fluorescent light is not without problems. the tubes are very present, and the moments of dimming are very clear. in professional circles it is often pointed out that the power of fascination emanating from the (colored) luminous material can be dangerous for artistic work, that the integration of these materials into the artistic process can only succeed as long as the fascination of the material is pushed into the background, as long as the luminous (colored) body is legitimised by a convincing artistic concept and does not degenerate into due to their a decorative end in itself. diffuse light emission, they favour an almost shadow-free illumination. large surfaces can be perfectly illuminated from a short distance. especially in the recent past, the use in theatres has become more and more popular and has replaced conventional horizontal lighting with asymmetrical floodlights in certain application situations, accentuation of backgrounds such as the opera foil. (Text: Benjamin Schälike)





deader than dead, with Ligia Lewis & Mlondi Zondi

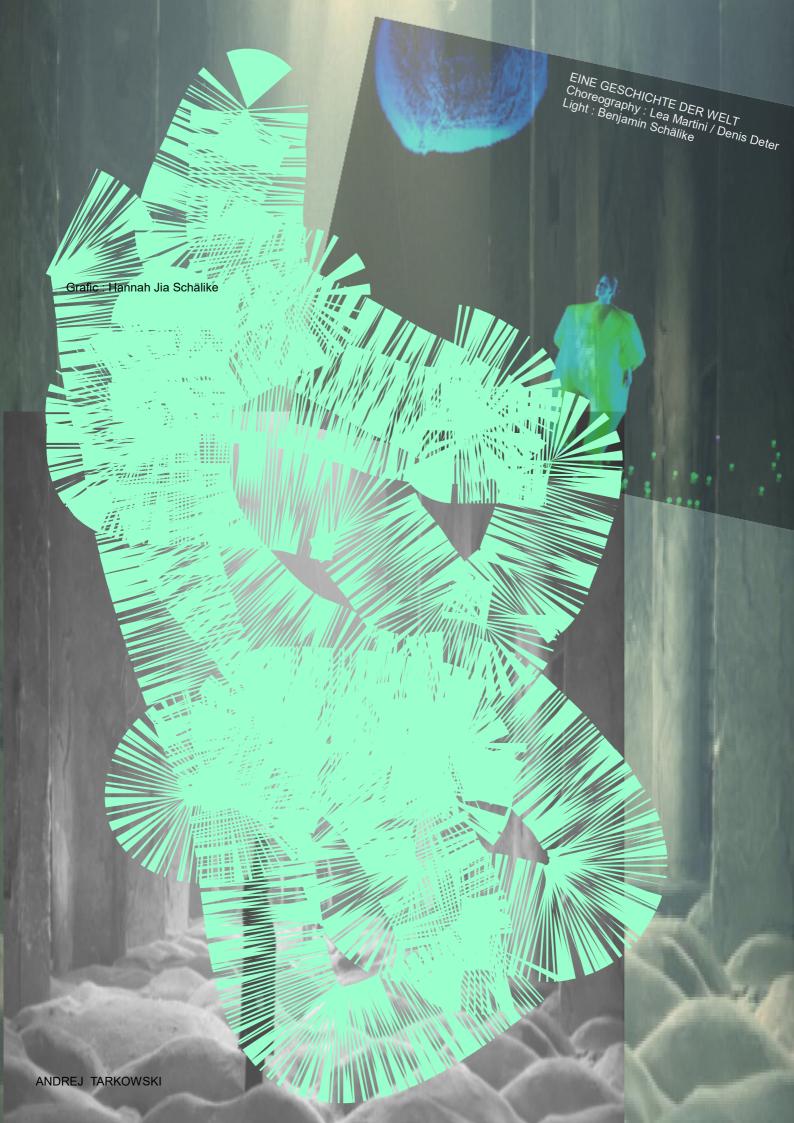
IVAN BAZAK (BERLIN):

Ivan Bazak is a fine artist and stage designer.
He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture in Kiev (Ukraine) and at the Düsseldorf Academy of Art, where he was a master's student of Prof. Karl Kneidl.
His art is shown internationally at exhibitions and biennials, In 2009 he co-initiated the 1st Carpathian Biennale in Cologne. 2008 awarded the the Henkel Art Prize.
As a stage designer he has worked at various theatres.
He worked as a director at Theater Bielefeld.
In 2015 he was awarded the renowned
Nestroyt Theatre Prize for stage design.

... from which I painted with "light" or, have learned a lot Mannerism, more precisely," light", and which always accompanies me Modernism, and like Cézanne when I think about **Postmodernism** light. The old and the masters of the etc. All these spochs have a Renaissance **Expressionists** specific "light" for me. particularty, those who , Baroque, Fine Artists who brought figures out of the darkness, like Caravaggio, Titian, Rembrandt, or created fascinating SPIELEN, SPIELEN, color mixtures, like SPIELEN Staatsoper HanoverRegie: Greco, Alexander Charim Bühne : Ivan Bazak for example.



Solid Light Works Anthony McCall



A TREE IN THE MORNING LOOKS DIFFERENT THAN AT NOON OR IN THE EVENING.

(BETTINA PELZ)









5 EDGES: PLAY / GAME / UNDER FRAGILITY

LIGHT: Benjamin Schälike





I M NOT ON THE BLACKLIST Choreography: Hyoung Min Kim Light: Benjamin Schälike



GELBE LANDSCHAFTEN

Choreography: Hyoung Min Kim

Light: Benjamin Schälike

A high tower is built with stones. The whole 10-minute scene plays in the light.

9.

When the actress comes down from the tower, the front light goes out, and the 2 KW dimmed to 30% (1 minute).

10.

When she reaches the floor the 2 KW goes out, and the blinding PARs go up to 30% (time in 15 sec./time out 8 sec.).

The actress goes off as she comes.

11.

The PARs increase to 100% (time in 8 sec.).

12.

The music goes on for about 9 sec.

13.

with the end of music, on sign, in 0 sec. music and light = BLACK.

The Titel Yellow Landscapes confronts a lighting designer with the question =Do I make yellow light or not.

In the end: I made small frames with yellow LEE 101 foil. Similar to the 3-D glasses in cinema. We handed this to each spectator together with the ticket. The spectator could decide by himself if and when he like to see the yellow landscape.



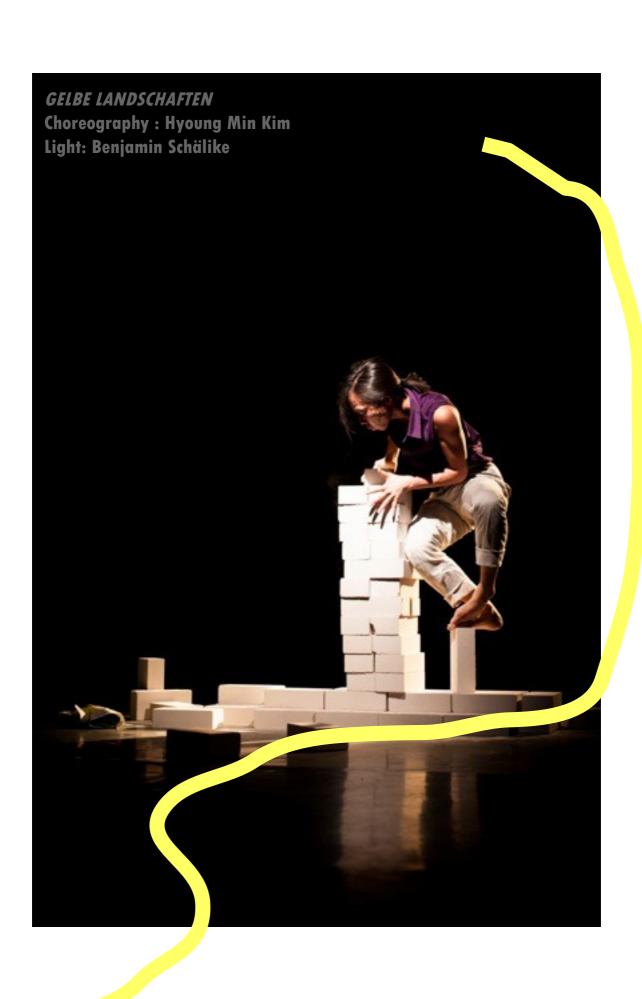
RICO

STEINFEST

DRESDENER KULTURMAGAZIN :

Their strength lies in their slowness. Accompanied by the sound of the wind, she glides from one position to the next in minimal motion. This seems like loose snow or dune sand, constantly, almost imperceptibly, transformed and reshaped by the wind. This offers plenty of opportunity associations and digression of thoughts. is viewer not directly challenged but almost reduced to the core: watching. You get to see a performer who lies motionless on stage for a long time, half on the bricks, half beside them. A victim of an accident. Then she reaches for her mobile phone and listens What she hears in. remains open.

Hyoung-Min Kim dismantles her brick collection, rearranges, rearranges. Slowly, and laboriously, intricately erects three fragile which body columns on her rests. Brittle strength. Then, after a short rebuilding, it is only a stack, or rather a platform, central, stable. She building continues it laboriously, climbs straightens and stands, up, there is nothing liberation or satisfaction on her face. Rather almost a kind horror at the height. rain, Sounds like and the crackling of a record gets louder.



GRIND

Choreography: Jefta van Dinther

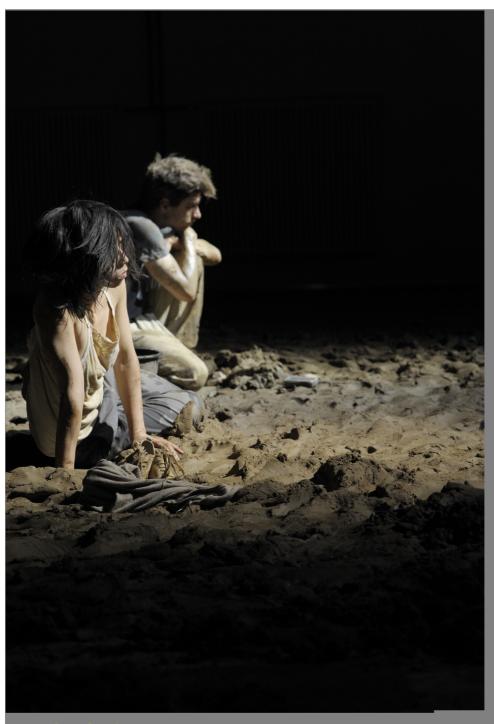
Light : Minna Tikkainen





LANG

Choreography : Kat Valastur Light : Nysos Vassilopoulos



GUEST / Hyoung Min Kim and Thommy Zeuggin Light : Benjamin Schälike





GLAND / Choreography: Kat Valastur / Light: Martin Beeretz



NOT GOOD ALONE Choreografie: Hanna Hegenscheidt Light: Benjamin Schälike

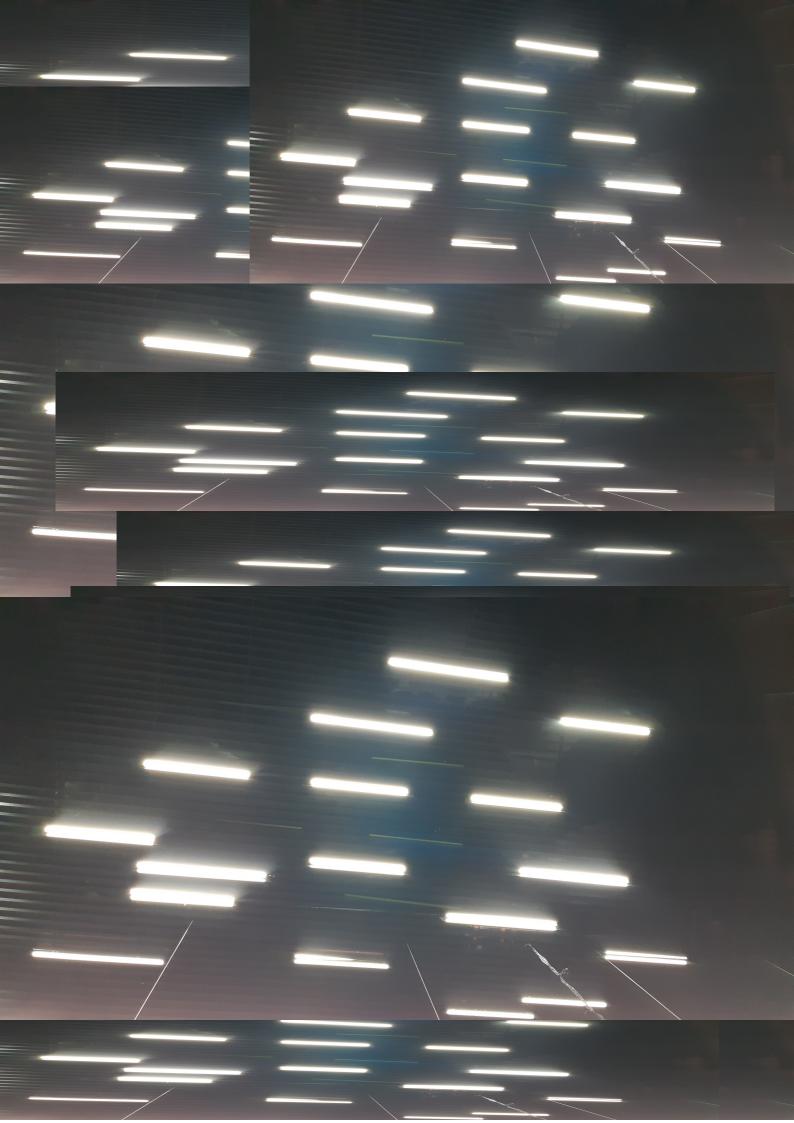


EVERYTHING ELSE

Choreography: Hyoung Min Kim and Thommy Zeuggin Light: Benjamin Schälike



BOOK: FASZINATION LICHT / MAX KELLER



THEATER LIGHTDESIGN

THE UGLY LIGHT

2

ENGLISH EDITION

BENJAMIN SCHÄLIKE
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WWW.THEUGLYLIGHT.COM

I have been concerned with the question of how to write about light as a creative medium without having to write a technical guideline.

The book is not a catalog of my lightdesign..

The book is about my understanding of light. My understanding of lightdesign, as an creative and artistic prozess.

The book is intended to serve everyone as a beginning, extension and stimulus to the understanding of light.

Accordingly, it will open up a kaleidoscope of possibilities.

You will find interviews and articles of people I worked with, of people I share ideas, how theater can work, how theater can be.

You will find interviews and articles of people who influenced or impressed me. You will find interviews and articles with other lightdesigner, with lightartists, stagedesigners and theatermakers.

As I know, such a book, which illustrates and discusses different approaches and perspectives of lighting design, have not existed in this form before.

I think this makes THE UGLY LIGHT special.

As I know, there is no other book like this,
who offer this kind of different spectrum of lightdesign.

Take this book as an inspiration and not as a guide. It is not about right or wrong, but about finding your own way with light design. I try to take a step beyond the technical know-how, to go towards considerations about creative lighting.