

love.abz

Otso Huopaniemi & co.

BERLIN_PREMIERE
in German, also some English/Finnish

12/13/14 December, 20:00

What began as an experiment in machine translation has evolved into a compelling performance that explores the fragility of language, understanding and our ongoing relationship with machines.

Conceived and directed by Finnish playwright Otso Huopaniemi and performed by Berlin-based performers Josep Caballero García, Lee Meir and Ania Nowak, the Berlin-premiere of *love.abz* is the latest link in a seemingly endless chain of translations and rewrites, both human and machine-made, that began in 2010, when Huopaniemi had Google Translate translate his play *An ABZ of Love* from Finnish to English and back, several times. Since then, the piece has been performed internationally in New York and Helsinki, among other places.

Using Google Translate and speech recognition software the piece is created in front of the audience, questioning the notion of authorship in an explicit way. Performed at Theaterdiscounter in German by a group whose native tongue is not German and whose artistic background is rather in movement than in writing, this latest version of *love.abz* focuses especially on the traces of authorial control that are alternately gained and lost in a linguistically and technologically unpredictable, cyclical environment in which the fourth writer, the computer, ultimately gets the last word.

Performance Josep Caballero García / Lee Meir / Ania Nowak **Conceived, directed and produced by** Otso Huopaniemi **Languages** German and English, among others **Stage and lighting design** Heikki Paasonen **Costumes** Lee Meir **Funded by** Kone Foundation, Finland **Thanks to** Mime Centrum Berlin / Inter-University Center for Dance Berlin (HZT) / Jana Unmüßig

Tickets: € 13,- / reduced € 8,-

Josep Caballero García (Spain) lives since 2006 in Berlin and works as a freelancer dancer and choreographer. **Otso Huopaniemi** (Finland) is a freelance performance-maker and writer, whose work has previously been shown in Germany at *ZKM Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie Karlsruhe*. **Lee Meir** (Israel) is a performer, choreographer and costume designer, living in Berlin and Tel-Aviv. She is currently collaborating with Maya Weinberg, for a piece which will premiere in *Tanztage 2014*, in Berlin. **Ania Nowak** (Poland) is a performer and choreographer working alone or with others between speech and movement.

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