

ינוש קורצ'ק /Janusz Korczak

Sam na sam z Bogiem/ עם אלוהים אשׁיה /Allein mit Gott /Seul avec Dieu

Actress: Yael Schüler

Director of the French version: Maya Alban-Zapata

Artistic advice of the Hebrew version: Yinon Tzafrir, Avi Gibson Barel

A co- production between y-productions and Orto-Da Theatre Group, Israel



The Author: Henryk Goldszmit , (1878-1942), known under the name **Janusz Korczak**, polish Jew, doctor, writer, pedagogue, witness, was also called “the teacher of Warsaw and Treblinka”. He was born in Warsaw as son of a lawyer in a bourgeois Jewish family, but he became early familiar with the misery of the city he was living in. He dedicated his life to the outcasts, the derelict ones, above all the most helpless, to the given-up children. Still in the Ghetto Warsaw he tried to secure a residual undisturbed life for his children in the orphanage, which he had founded. Although the fascists hold out the prospect for the famous doctor “to be free”, he refused to abandon his children

and was murdered together with them in 1942 in Treblinka. He left over 30 books and thousand articles in magazines, as well as theatre plays and radiochatter. In 1937 Korczak was honored with the Polish laurel for Literature and 1972 posthum with the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade. Out of a personal crisis after the death of his mother „**Sam na sam z Bogiem**“ was published in Poland in 1922 . In Korczak`s composition they are 18 prayers, symbolically as the Jewish prayer Shmone Esrei- the Eighteen faceted prayer.

The performance: Yael Schüler started already in 2012 to transmit Korczak`s conversations with God into a dramatic form. She chose eight of these monologues, which means eight different characters, like the little boy, the prostitute, the teacher, the old woman etc. and worked on embodying them with the help of different theatre artists and musicians from Israel, Switzerland and Germany. The different personalities approach their invisible counterpart with their desires, sorrows, sadnesses, gladnesses and their angers, independent from any help of any religious form, though it might be compared to the practice of Hitbodedut by Rabbi Nahman of Breslav. Because they have a very different, but strong and emotional relationship to this invisible One and because these are such rare moments of honesty, of unobserved situations, we thought and have made the experience

that these texts fit to be done on stage. There is an interesting contradiction between being alone with God unobserved and in the same time being an actress in front of an audience. The question of interest in this theatre production is not: Who and how is God? (as we never definitely can know this) But: Who and how is the human?

We performed a first version in Germany at the Culture Festival of Lake of Constance, at the Israelite Congregation of Münster (D) and Basel (CH) with success and awakening interest, which encouraged us to continue to work and to bring it with the help of a director to another level.



Finding by accident the text in Hebrew on a flea market in Tel Aviv and the meeting with the acting teacher and director Amir Orian, who is leading in Tel Aviv the Room Theatre, brought us to the idea to enlarge this project to a wider audience as well in Israel in Hebrew as in Europe in German.

The new Hebrew version of this performance was first shown on 8 of July 2014 in The Room Theatre Tel Aviv, which moved Israeli audience very much. Between the two shows of this day the first rocket alarm of this period happened in Tel Aviv, an incident which gave new meaning and actuality to some parts of Korczak`s texts.

The translation of the text by Yehoshua Markovitz is a high poetic Hebrew, but Yael is bringing it emotionally close to human reality. In November 2014, there were another 5 shows happening in Israel, as well in theaters in Acco and Tel Aviv, as for high school audience, enriched by rehearsals with Orto-da Theatre Group members Yinon Tzafrir and Gibson Barel <http://orto-da.com> , who gave an inspiring and dynamic influence to the version that existed until then. In January 2015 the production moved again back to the German language with 5 shows happening in Zurich, Zug and Basel, Switzerland and in an ancient Synagogue in Germany close to Freiburg supported by the Swiss Association of friends of Janusz Korczak <http://korczak.ch>

In July ´15 Yael Schüler performed „Sam na sam z Bogiem“ at the Galicia Museum, Krakow, as part of the 25th Jewish Festival. She played two characters in Polish, two in Hebrew, two in French and two in German as if representing a larger range of humanity.



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