Apropos

Office of Arts + Cultural Programming

PEAK Performances at Montclair State University

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The Symptoms

US Debut!
The Symptoms
Apropos

Artistic Director: Réka Szabó
Creators/Performers: Réka Szabó, Emese Csuhorka, István Götz, Dániel Szász
Lighting Designer: Attila Sári
Visual Designer: Zsolt Korai
Costume Designer: Edit Szűcs
Special Makeup Design: Adrienn Szabó
Mask Designer: Janka Haraszti
Interactive Technology: Zsolt Korai, Gábor Papp
Creative Coding: Gábor Papp
Technician: Gábor Karcis
Tour Manager: Adnim Szabó

Program

I will be all of these things one day
Performed by Réka Szabó

~ ~ Intermission ~ ~

I don’t remember being raised like this
Performed by Réka Szabó, Emese Csuhorka, István Götz, Dániel Szász

The Symptoms receives funding from the Hungarian Ministry of Human Resources and the National Cultural Fund of Hungary. This production was also supported by the Trifft House of Contemporary Arts, Jurányi Production House, and National Dance Theatre.
Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes, including one 15-minute intermission.
In consideration of both audience and performers, please turn off all electronic devices. The taking of photographs or videos and the use of recording equipment are not permitted. No food or drink is permitted in the theater.

The Symptoms

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Montclair State’s Office of Arts & Cultural Programming (ACP) presents and produces leading artists of the world in dance, music, theater, and opera. Under its signature series Peak Performances, ACP has produced works such as Zinzi’s The Life of Clementine Hunter by Robert Wilson, Brion Johnstone Reagan, Toshio Reagon, and Jacqueline Woodson; Dog Days by David T. Little and Royce Vavrek; Harry Partch’s Oedipus; and Ridge Theater’s The Life of Clementine Hunter by Robert Wilson, Bernice Johnson Reagon, Toshi Reagon, and Jacqueline Woodson;

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The 2014/15 season is made possible in part by funds from:

- The National Endowment for the Arts
- The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
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- National Dance Project (NDP) of the New England Foundation for the Arts
- John and Cynthia Barnes
- Robert and Holty Simpny
- The Honorable Mary Mochary

To view our complete season and for more information, visit peakperfs.org
I don’t remember being raised like this Human statistics, subjective inventory. Life fragments from the age of 7 to 77. The BBC’s 7 Up documentary series follows a group of children through life. They are 56 years old today. The fragmented life-documents that revisit them every 7 years show how unique and yet how similar human life stories are.

This was the starting point of The Symptoms’ workshop in the autumn of 2012, under the leadership of Petra Aradi, artistic director of SPACE Theatre in The Netherlands. They collected their real or fictitious memories up to their imagined age of 77. The resulting performance is poetic, touching, humorous, and simultaneously personal and universal.

The version of I don’t remember being raised like this as staged for Peak Performances has been developed specifically for The Symptoms’ US debut. The interactive real-time video responding instantly to the movement of the performers—a technology previously used in the company’s No One or Do We Go To Sleep during the Day?—progressively displaces the live performers, as the emphasis shifts from text to visuals, and the projected image renders the transience of human life immediately tangible and visceral.

About the Artists

Réka Szabó (Artistic Director/Creator/Performer) has a degree in mathematics and computer science but had fallen in love with dance when she was 15. She was born in a country then under Communist rule, where classical ballet and folk dance were the only types of dance officially recognized as an art form and contemporary dance was banned as one of the “plagues of the West.” She took up apparatus gymnastics in her childhood, married the little girl, the middle-aged woman, and the woman well ahead in years, subtracting time from the available dimensions of experience. Can you spin out of the orbit you have entered? Can you feel a new start? Can you escape the tower where you locked yourself by the time you turned 44?

About the Company

The Symptoms is a performance collective based in Budapest, Hungary, founded in 2002 by dancer and choreographer Réka Szabó, who has been a part of the Hungarian dance-theater scene since 1995. The company’s work provides an important prism through which to view contemporary life in a post-Communist society. Characterized by an unbridled spirit of creative enthusiasm, the basis for the company’s work is inspired by a collective consciousness tackling subjects that were historically experienced underground in Budapest and focusing on people’s personal experiences, doing so with laser analysis as well as buoyant good humor and keen artistic acumen.

The members of The Symptoms are not simply performing artists but fully involved contributors whose personalities, creativity, and team spirit fundamentally define every work of the company. In the last 12 years, The Symptoms has created 21 performances and 2 short films and received 16 national and international prizes—most recently the Rudolf Laban Award for Visuals, for the best dance production of 2012 in Hungary. The company performs regularly in Hungary and has presented its works in 30 European cities, including London, Berlin, Prague, and Vienna. The engagement at Peak Performances at Montclair State will be the first occasion that the company’s work is presented in the United States.

Acknowledgments

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