

**TOMMA GALONSKA :: PERFORMANCES**

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE FOR A VOICE TO REACH ANOTHER

Antije Krog

# OCCASION\_1 (cast-off-life)

Installation for a speaking character and a disembodied choreograph, Munich 2015



Tomma Galonska in her installation OCCASION\_1 (cast-off-life) Munich 2015

Videostill © Michael Bischoff



Tomma Galonska in her installation **OCCASION\_1** (cast-off-life), speaking to the audience – behind her the cast-off clothes

Videostill © Michael Bischoff

**OCCASION\_1** (cast-off-life) addresses the inner texts which are constantly ‘writing us’. The performer has ‘stepped out’ of her various bodies and costumes and now feels free to speak. The space between the stage – strewn with cast-off clothes – and the audience signifies a symbolic ‘shore’. Positioned at this threshold, the performer speaks to the audience in a meandering flow, reflecting life patterns of her own, and triggering inner films, memories and thoughts in the imagination of the spectator.

This is a work in progress and part of a long-term project: **OCCASIONAL\_ pieces**.

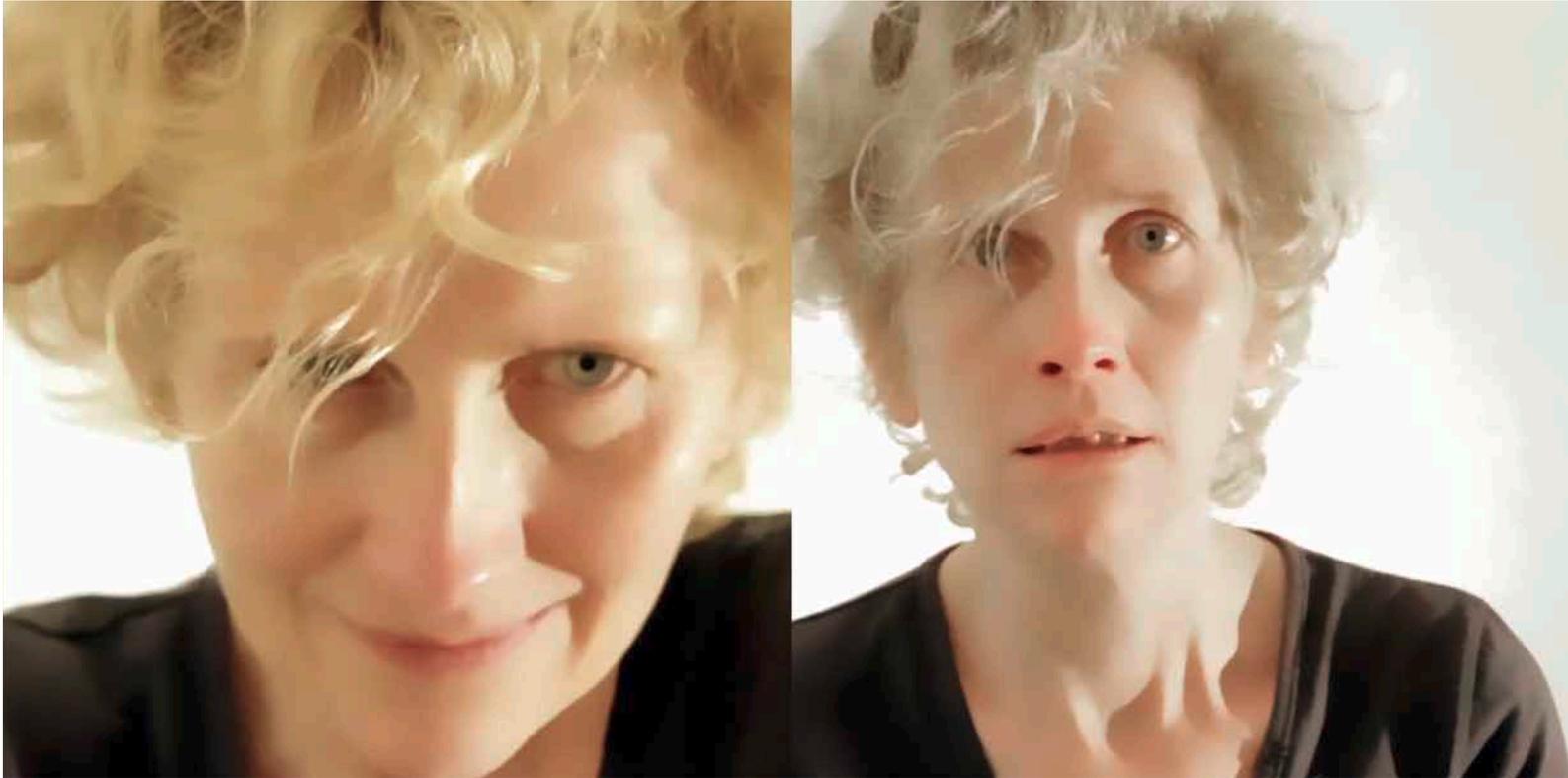
Developed at the **Schwere Reiter Theater Munich** in May 2015.

The concept won an award from the Cultural Department of the city of Munich for project development in 2015.

See vimeo :: <https://vimeo.com/133583606>

# I LIVE IN HELL – LET ME LIVE

Video-Diptych, Munich 2014



Tomma Galonska performing in Manuela Hartel's Video-Diptych I LIVE IN HELL - LET ME LIVE, Munich 2014

© Videostill by Manuele Hartl

Perpetrator and victim are portrayed by the same person on parallel screens. Video-artist Manuela Hartel seizes on Galonska's Henry VI adaptation for a single female voice. (See the following page.) Whereas Galonska's live performance concentrates on speech, in the video performance the words are only spoken inwardly. There is no sound, just facial expression.

Sept. - Oct. 2014 :: Leonrodhaus, Munich // June 2015 :: "Stadt der Frauen – Ein Kongress", Munich Opera Festival

See vimeo :: <https://vimeo.com/132517956>

# LONGING FOR TERRITORY. LONGING FOR UPHEAVAL. LONGING FOR LOVE. LONGING FOR REVENGE.

Speech installation for a single female voice and video, based on Shakespeare's Henry VI, LEONRODHAUS, Munich 2014



Left: Tomma Galonska sitting in a separate performance room

Right: The projection of her face on the window glass in the visitors' room



Left and middle: Visitors' room with the slowly changing projection on the window glass

Left: At the left corner (unseen) leads a door to the performance-room

Right: Tomma Galonska during her performance LONGING FOR TERRITORY...

© Photos by Manuela Hartel

Shakespeare's early historian plays Henry VI, Parts II and III, were transformed by Galonska into a libretto for a single female voice. A two-room installation was set up for the presentation. The actress is sitting alone in a small chamber; the audience can look into that room through a door but not enter it. In the visitors' room a video projection shows the face of the artist growing more and more blurred. In the space of an hour the actress has gone deep into her own physical experience of language, experimenting verbally with this cruel and yet so poetic glorification of violence. The audience witnesses her passion and her sufferings.

Visitors are allowed to change seats. Different angles offer different options in the combination of visual and acusic information.

17. Sept. - 18. Oct. 2014 :: Leonrodhaus - Haus für Kunst, Munich

Supported by the Cultural Department of the city of Munich

See vimeo :: <https://vimeo.com/133632993>

# NEWS 13:13

26 days of performing. Every day at 1:13 p.m. artists deliver poetic news from the African World

HAUS DER KUNST, Munich 2012



The actor, Tonderai Munyebvu, during a NEWS 13:13 performance

Behind him in projection, the talismanic quote for the whole project: »I inhabit the unexploited space«. Aimé Césaire

French subtitles: It's a very long story and no one can listen to all of it

© Videostill: Christian Ketels



Visitors watching Munyebvu's silent action at the corner of the staircase



Galonska with two visitors in the old elevator at the Haus der Kunst  
© Photos: Sonja Allgaier

**NEWS 13:13** was developed by Tomma Galonska to adapt aspects of the oral tradition to a contemporary aesthetic for recitation. The concept is based on poems by the Afro-Caribbean poet Aimé Césaire and on political articles regarding the situation of black artist in Europe today.

In the course of twenty-six days, Galonska and the London based Zimbabwean actor Tonderai Munyebvu improvise each day for one hour on the staircase of the Haus der Kunst, always finding new connections between poetry, personal information and silent action.

1. - 26. August 2012 :: **NEWS 13:13** was presented at the Haus der Kunst during the exhibition "Black Germany" promoted by FMDK e.V.; supported by the Cultural Department of the city of Munich and the Cultural Department of Upper Bavaria.  
See vimeo :: <https://vimeo.com/132700623>

## Projects 2015 - 2006 (a selection)

### **2015 - OCCASION\_1 (cast-off-life)**

Installation for a speaking character and a disembodied choreography

(This is a work in progress)

Concept & performer

### **2014 - Territorium wollen. Umsturz wollen. Liebe wollen. Rache wollen.**

**(Longing for Territory. Longing for Upheaval. Longing for Love. Longing for Revenge.)**

Speech-installation for a single female voice and video, based on Shakespeare's Henry VI

Concept & performer; with videos by Manuela Hartel

Leonrodhaus, Munich

### **2013 - »Äußerste Maske« (»Supreme Mask«)**

Performance in honor of the 100th birthday of the Afro-Caribbean poet Aimé Césaire

Concept & performer

Klang im Turm, Munich

### **2013 - performance\_recycled**

5 days of performing with fragments from former works

Concept & performer

Pinakothek der Moderne, Schaustelle-Schauing, Munich

### **2012 - NEWS 13:13**

26 days of performing. Artists deliver news from the African World

Concept & performer; with Tonderai Munyebvu

Haus der Kunst, Munich

### **2012 - Hamletmaschine (Hamletmaschine)**

By Heiner Müller

Neue Münchner Schauspielschule, Munich

Director

**2011 - physical: MONEY**

Performance about money and identity

Concept & director; music by Anastasio Mitropoulos

Schwere Reiter Theater, Munich

**2010 - public banana**

Live-performance for seven women to a silent video about Tanzania

Video by Roger Kausch

Schwere Reiter Theater, Munich

**2010 - One Minute**

By Simon Stephens

Advanced-training-production

Director

Schauwerk Dresden-Hellerau / Socieaetstheater Dresden

**2009 - SPRACHE UND GEWALT (SPEECH AND POWER)**

Walk-in-installation based on a Kurdish song from 530 B.C.

Concept & director

Schwere Reiter Theater, Munich

**2009 - vor dem verschwinden (before the disappearance)**

(Revival in 2010 and 2015)

Choreography for dance, speech-acts and lyrics

Concept, director & performer

Text by Andrea Heuser, Music by Sidney Corbett

Schwere Reiter Theater, Munich

**2009 - Die Wolf-Gang (The Wolf-Gang)**

By Tom Lanoye

Advanced-training-production

Director

Dramaten, Dresden

### **2008 - Abschied (Farewell)**

By Jürg Laederach

Theater-production at the 6th New Drama Festival in Munich

Concept & director

### **2008 - Living Sculptures**

Series for international contemporary poetry & performance

Concept, director & performer

Freies Musikzentrum, Munich

### **2007 - Eine Oase im Augenblick (An Oasis at the Moment)**

By Sshorâb Ssepehri (Iran)

Poetry & performance for voice and piano

Concept & performer, with Masako Ohta

Hotel Olympic, Munich

### **2007 - ÜBER SEE ZUNGEN (TRANS-LAY-SHUNS)**

By Yoko Tawada (Japan)

Poetry & performance for voice and piano

Concept & performer, with Masako Ohta

Meta Theater Moosach, Seidlvilla Munich, Residenz Eichstätt

### **2006 - HAVE A CUP OF TEA**

Walk-in-installation for the “Book of Salomon - Composition of Qoheleth”

Cast: Two vocal voices, two music instruments and various tea-ceremonies

Duration: 8 hours per day

Concept & performer

Schauspielzelle, Munich

### **2006 - Das Unaufhörliche (The Unending)**

Oratorium by Gottfried Benn, transformed into a version for seven voices and saxophone

Concept & director

Schauspielzelle, Munich