

Tomoskar Productions Presents



Tom Greder – Tomoskar Productions

Tom Greder – Artistic director – General manager
Seevorstadt 14a CH-2502 Biel-Bienne Switzerland
+41 (0)788 911 965 | tom@kinopan.com | kinopan.com

SYNOPSIS

Bätkøñ is an interactive comic-drama taking place in and around an elevated apartment, it's balcony and the surrounding public space below. Seen through the experiences of three couples from different language and cultural backgrounds, it explores and reflects on the nature & impact of conflict and its reconciliation.

The couples occupying the apartment find themselves embroiled in personal conflicts which result in separation. Each couple goes through a similar scenario of dispute, argument and eventual parting of ways. Different in each case is the way their various language and cultural mannerisms & traditions manifest and play out in the conflict.

Three find themselves on the street, evicted with their belongings. Facing rejection, isolation & uncertainty, they reflect on their predicament of being alone and at the mercy of the elements. Similarly, the other three find themselves abandoned and isolated in their broken homes...surrounded by reminders of what they have lost and contemplating their own uncertain futures.

Each of the characters explores their new-found situation & possibilities, finding solace & solidarity in the unexpected associations formed with those around in the same predicament.

With the support of each other and collaborating with the audience, the characters explore their new situations and devise ways to reconcile & re-unite with their partners and return to the security of their relationship & homes.

Bätkøñ premiered as part of the 30th La Plage des Six Pompes festival in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland in collaboration with a CCHAR (Centre de Création Helvétique des Arts de la Rue) creative residency in 2023 and is ready for national and international touring.

BACKGROUND

Conceived, written & directed by Tom Greder, Bätkøñ is mentored by renowned dramaturg Philipp Boë and music scored and performed by Grammy award winning musician Jeremy Mage.

Working together with artists from other language & cultural backgrounds Bätkøñ cross-pollinates creative & cultural visions and creates work which is suitable for different language regions of Switzerland. For international engagements, local actors are sourced to portray one of the couples.

Bätkøñ is Tom Greder's 9th theatrical creation and his 2nd larger scale ensemble theatre production which combines the diverse performing styles he has explored & developed over the past 37 years of international performing, writing, creating, directing and teaching.

Bätkøñ represents the crystallisation of his experiences, vision and intentions for interactive comic-drama & satire as a relevant & transformative experience suitable for audiences from diverse language regions.

As a "site specific urban theatre" performance performed in public spaces, Bätkøñ expands on Tom Greder's focus on creating inclusive, unconventional, interactive & innovative performances which challenge the audiences perception of theatre.

The creative development was supported by FARS, SSA, Canton Bern, the city of Biel-Bienne, Association CulturL, Association Gigamphi, CicaS, Corodis, Loterie Romande and SIS. Scripting and rehearsals periods were supported through a CCHAR (Centre de Compétances et de Création Helvétique des Arts de la Rue) residence in La-Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland

INSIGHTS

At its core, Bätøkøñ focuses on highlighting and questioning our pre-conceived notions of being alone or together, the partnerships we form, the conflicts we have... and the influence our culture, language backgrounds, societal & religious expectations have on the way we interpret & manage these situations. Bätøkøñ explores the assumptions we make, the choices we have and alternative possibilities. It challenges the audience to reflect on their own perspective & reality by observing that of others.

How do differences in culture and language impact on the way conflict and reconciliation are managed...and how do these differing ways impact on the audiences personal views, attitudes and expectations ?

Through satire, drama & comedy, the audience reflects on the influence that societal, cultural, emotional, religious, secular and commercial relationship models have on their own expectations & behavior. Performed in three languages, the audiences sensitivity & imagination towards the performance themes is heightened and they are challenged to observe & reflect not just listen in order to interpret the deeper sense of the performance.

Additional reference points of the performance include myths & faery tales such as Rapunzel, and theatre classics such as Cyrano de Bergerac and Romeo & Juliet.

Furthermore, references are made to historical & pre-historical events responsible for the evolution of modern social, psychological & anthropological perspectives.

Particularly relevant under the current world situation of conflict, Bätøkøñ also explores the broader themes associated with uncertainty, isolation, togetherness, inclusion & rejection, security & risk, conflict & resolution

FORM & STAGING

COMIC-DRAMA SATIRE: Tom Greder focuses on making comedy an integral part of his stories. Comedy entertains, breaks down boundaries, connects people, instils humility and encourages people to engage with and relate to complex or sensitive issues. Satire is also used as a way of exploring & critiquing humanities assumptions, prejudices and approach to various issues.

ADDITIONAL POSSIBILITIES

ADAPTATION: With a simple format and dealing with the universal theme of conflict, there is a broad potential to adapt the performance to suite particular situations, environments, countries, languages, epochs or contexts, or to express particular points of view or attitudes such as generational differences or non-binary relationships.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Tom Greder and Panorama place an emphasis on increasing the impact performances have by offering creative development workshops which integrate the local community and its artists into public outcomes. For Bätøkøñ, this may mean working together with local organisations & community groups which deal with conflict or mental health issues.

TECHNICAL RIDER (short)

- o A first-floor balcony, large enough to accommodate 6 people during rehearsals and performances. There must be at least 3 windows next to the balcony, with performing access to the interior space of the apartment/building near the windows during rehearsals and performances.
- o An access door to the apartment/building must be located on the same side as the balcony.
- o The performance space under the balcony must be 7 metres wide and 5 metres deep.
- o There must be electricity outside to power an electric piano and a sound system (provided by the company).
- o Appropriate outdoor lighting is required to illuminate the balcony, the 3 windows, and the space under the balcony. The interior lighting for the apartment/building will be provided by the company.
- o A dressing room is required inside the apartment/building.
- o The rehearsal period on site of at least 2 days prior to performances.
- o Catering and accommodation must be provided during the rehearsals and performances.
- o Detailed technical requirements are available on request.



