



**ADELAIDE
FESTIVAL**

28 FEB - 15 MAR 2020



Image: Julien Lambert

THEATRE / BELGIUM

Cold Blood

Michèle Anne De Mey, Jaco Van Dormael
and Kiss & Cry Collective

Written by Thomas Gunzig

5 - 8 March 2020
RIDLEY CENTRE
ADELAIDE SHOWGROUNDS

Duration 1hr 15 mins, no interval

Presenting Partner



« It's dark.
Your eyes are open, but you see
nothing.
You've switched off your phone
because you've been asked to.
You think you're at the theatre
and yet you're already elsewhere.
You will live seven deaths.
Without worry, without fear.
Each death is a surprise.
Each death is the first.
Deaths are like lives.
No two are alike. »

Thomas Gunzig

#AdiFest
adelaidefestival.com.au



INTERVIEW WITH THE CREATORS

MICHÈLE ANNE DE MEY AND JACO VAN DORMAEL

Where did this adventure begin for you?

Jaco: Right here on our kitchen table. First of all, we are a couple. And we never usually work together because I find I'm unable to film dance. So we were looking for something where the dance was not serving the cinema, the cinema was not serving the dance – where everyone had to start from scratch.

I was just finishing *Mr Nobody* [with Jared Leto], a film that took 10 years of my life. I thought: is it possible to make a feature film here on the table in our kitchen? And for Michèle Anne, it is possible to dance only with the hands? We started with a bunch of friends, a little tiny camera and a few toy animals our grown-up kids had left, and realised it was possible to make tiny things. Et voilà!

How early on did you decide on the live film format?

Michèle Anne: What we always knew was the performance was going to be in front of an audience so that they could see the 'making-of' while also watching the film above on the big screen. The camera sees what the audience's eyes can't see and the audience's eyes see what the camera does not see. It's very much the idea of a story within a story within a story.

Cold Blood is some kind of hybrid between the live experience of theatre and the technical elements of cinema. Don't you agree?

Jaco: Exactly, it's cinema but it's not 'standard' cinema, nor is it 'standard' theatre or dance. The key is in the mix of the three art forms. Putting the three together gives something more. I know it sounds like a cliché but that's *Cold Blood*.

Lots of cinematic references like *2001 Space Odyssey*, *Black Swan*, David Lynch... Are they all meant to be there?

Jaco: Of course. We had a lot of fun behind the scenes! We said that we could do *2001 Space Odyssey* with a white glove and a washing machine hose... which if you think about it, it's the beauty of improvisation. We asked Sylvie (the set and props designer) if she could make us a spaceship, and she arrived ten minutes later with one crafted with a dryer and two forks! By adding three lamps, we made *2001*. Of course it's not Kubrick but still, it works! We have fun like children, it's a privilege.

Michèle Anne: In *Cold Blood*, there are plenty of tips of the hat to famous musicians and choreographers that passed away: *Boléro* by Maurice Béjart, the Aquatic, the tap dancing. We did them as a tribute, with a lot of humility and respect... but we think they'd like them, they're also very funny.

How has it been working as a married couple?

Jaco: If you've ever worked with the person you love, you'll know it's not always easy. We needed rules. The first rule: we stop talking about it when we are in the bed. And after a while: let's not speak about work during breakfast either...

Jonathan Rodriguez & Romain Rougé for Putsch Media



MICHÈLE ANNE DE MEY AND JACO VAN DORMAEL

DIRECTOR AND PERFORMERS

Both hailing from Belgium, Michèle Anne De Mey and Jaco Van Dormael were giants in their own fields before merging their talents. De Mey started her career dancing with Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, before moving into choreography and becoming artistic director of Charleroi Danse in Brussels for 12 years. Van Dormael is an acclaimed director and screenwriter, best known for the multi-award winning feature films, *Mr Nobody* and *Toto le héros*.

In 2012, they formed Kiss & Cry Collective with a group of other talented creatives working in the fields of writing, cinematography, design and lighting – and built something entirely new and unique. Casting two human hands in the starring roles, they produced a show where a love affair, with all its associated emotions, is danced purely with digits. A tiny set for the hands / characters to live in was designed, and cameras caught and projected the action onto a big screen.



THOMAS GUNZIG

WRITER

Van Dormael met Thomas Gunzig in 2013, when they wrote together the script for Van Dormael's film *Le Tout Nouveau Testament*, which sold two million tickets worldwide, rewarded by the Magritte for Best Scenario and nominated for the Césars and Golden Globes. Gunzig, among the most awarded Belgian writers of his generation, is a star in Belgium and his books are translated worldwide. He was immediately fascinated by the idea of mixing different art forms and agreed to write the texts for *Kiss&Cry* and *Cold Blood*.

CREDITS

A show by Michèle Anne De Mey, Jaco Van Dormael and Kiss & Cry Collective

Texts Thomas Gunzig

A collective creation by Grégory Grosjean, Thomas Gunzig, Julien Lambert, Sylvie Olivé, Nicolas Olivier with the participation of Thomas Beni, Gladys Brookfield-Hampson, Boris Cekevda, Gabriella Iacono, Aurélie Leporcq, Bruno Olivier, Stefano Serra

Direction Jaco Van Dormael and Michèle Anne De Mey

Scenario Thomas Gunzig, Jaco Van Dormael and Michèle Anne De Mey

Cinematography Jaco Van Dormael and Julien Lambert

Choreography Michèle Anne De Mey and Grégory Grosjean

Director Jaco Van Dormael alternately with Harry Cleven and Nicolas Olivier

Dancers Michèle Anne De Mey, Grégory Grosjean and Gabriella Iacono alternately with Nora Alberdi, Frauke Marën, Manuela Rastaldi, Denis Robert

Camera Julien Lambert assisted by Aurélie Leporcq alternately with Juliette Van Dormael, Tristan Galand, Pierre de Wurstemberger and Charlotte Marchal

Set Sylvie Olivé assisted by François Roux, Juliette Fassin, Théodore Brisset, Brigitte Baudet, Daniella Zorrozuza

Constructions Jean-François Pierlot, Walter Gonzales

Costumes Béa Pendesini and Sarah Duvert

Light Nicolas Olivier assisted by Bruno Olivier

Sound Boris Cekevda

Performer and set manipulations Michèle Anne De Mey, Grégory Grosjean, Gabriella Iacono, Ivan Fox, Bruno Olivier, Stefano Serra, Jaco Van Dormael, Julien Lambert, Aurélie Leporcq

Narrator Toby Regbo

Translations Gladys Brookfield

Pictures Julien Lambert

Technical direction Thomas Dobruszkès

Production Héléne Dubois / Astragales

Public Relations Marie Tirtiaux / Astragales

On tour

Cast Harry Cleven, Manuela Rastaldi, Grégory Grosjean, Gabriella Iacono, Julien Lambert, Pierre de Wurstemberger, Ivan Fox, Stefano Serra, Yann Hoogstoel

Sound Boris Cekevda

Production Héléne Dubois

Technical direction Thomas Dobruszkès

International Touring Agent Menno Plukker Theatre Agent Inc.

Public Relations / Tour management Marie Tirtiaux

Executive Producer Astragales asbl (BE)

Associated Producer Mars, Mons Arts de la Scène (BE), Théâtre de Namur (BE)

Coproducers Charleroi Danses (BE), La Fondation Mons 2015, KVS (BE), Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg (LUX), Le Printemps des Comédiens (FR), Torino Danza (IT), Canadian Stage (CA) Théâtre de Carouge-Atelier de Genève (CH), Théâtre des Célestins (FR)

With the support of the Fédération Wallonie Bruxelles – Service de Danse.

