



聚合舞

Polymer DMT /
Fang Yun Lo

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Documentary theater
www.polymerdmt.com

TOPIC/ STYLE

People have always migrated to other countries to work and earn money. Today, this global labor migration is one of the most complex and invisible phenomena of our society. In some countries, such as Singapore or Dubai, migrant workers now make up the vast majority of the population, but with very limited rights and sometimes precarious living conditions. Migrant workers also fill important gaps in industrialized countries like Germany or Taiwan - they work in home care, in industry, in the construction sector.

The Taiwanese choreographer Fang Yun Lo, who lives in Germany, and her colleagues - the Vietnamese choreographer Ngo Thanh Phuong and the Taiwanese set designer Cheng Ting Chen, who lives in Berlin - interviewed over 100 people with a Vietnamese background in Germany and Taiwan in a two-year journalistic research project. In spontaneous encounters at work, in stores, snack bars and stores, they talked about experiences as immigrants or in a family between cultures.

What promises and desires lead young people from Vietnam and other countries of the global South into such dependencies? How are they different from the contract workers of the 1970s and 1980s? How do these conditions manifest themselves for those affected in each case, and what does this tell us about our societies?

HOME AWAY FROM HOME composes a moving, multi-voiced journey through theater and history from all these memories. Divided into small groups, the audience encounters six performers at different stations who tell their own stories and those of their families - as artists, workers, Youtubers or students, in Germany as well as in East Asia. A complex mosaic of human relationships emerges from narratives, images, films and audio pieces.

HOME AWAY FROM HOME tells of the global dimension of migratory movements and intercultural reality, reports on turmoil and structural violence, but at the same time also explores overarching human categories of home, identity and happiness. It's not just about migrants - it's about people. About all of us.

The production is part II of a theatrical series about (fluid) identities. It was created as a co-production with the partner theaters HELLERAU Dresden, PACT Zollverein Essen and Cloud Gate Theater Taiwan, in cooperation with artists and research partners from Germany, Taiwan and Vietnam.





Prior to this project, there was a research phase of more than two years in Taiwan and Germany. Vietnamese immigrants in both countries stand as representatives for the immigrants and expatriates of this world. Each of the more than 100 interviews we conducted was not just a collection of material - it was always a moving experience to dive into a private memory together. This special, emotional moment is also what we want to share with the audience on stage. In the end, we are not talking about Vietnamese or migrants, but about people - about all of us.

For several years I have been working artistically with (cultural) identities and their formation. For me as a migrant living between Asia and Europe, my own cultural identity is very important, but not at all consistent. Quite the contrary. For me, identity is above all a process, an eternal movement and questioning, a technique of navigation between different poles.

Fang Yun Lo

In the course of preparation, I learned a lot about the history and inevitability of migration, about fleeing, beginnings, and the return of different people. The stage installation I designed for the piece follows up on these questions: how can the senses and thinking be opened up in the theater, what spatial arrangements and objects enable us to better understand others and ourselves?

Cheng Ting Chen



CREDITS

Creation: Polymer DMT Team
Performers: Vũ Phương Thảo, Võ Thị Hồng Cam Thuý, Phạm Minh Đức, Nguyễn Thu Hằng, Phan Mỹ Nhung, Bùi Văn Quý
Artistic direction: Fang Yun Lo
Artistic collaboration: Ngô Thanh Phương
Stage: Cheng Ting Chen
Music/Sound: Patrik Zosso, Daniel Somaroo Acuña
Video: Andrés Hilarión Madariaga
Light Design / Technical Director: Max Rux
Assistance: Vũ Mạnh Đức
Production management DE: Sabina Stücker
Production management TW: Ya Ting Tsai

Co-production:
HELLERAU Dresden, PACT Zollverein Essen, Cloud Gate Theater Taipei
Project funding:
Ministry of Culture and Science of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Cultural Foundation of the Federal State of Saxony KdFS, National Culture and Art Foundation Taiwan NCAF, Art Foundation NRW, Goethe Institute Taipei/TW, City of Dresden (Office for Culture and Heritage Protection), City of Essen (Culture Office)

DETAILS

Premiere: February 26, 2021, HELLERAU Dresden (Online-Premiere)
Duration: ca. 90min
Capacity: 60-80 people (walk through different station on-stage)
Keywords/genres: Documentary theatre, theatrical walk, multimedia performance
Language: mandarin, german, vietnamese
Subtitles: german, vietnamese, english
Additional material: picture exhibition with research pictures, workshops

BIO- GRAPHY

With the label Polymer DMT, the Taiwanese-born choreographer Fang Yun Lo is working since 2011 with artists from a wide range of disciplines on projects including dance pieces, documentary theatre, video works and interactive media installations. The works are created in cooperation with German and Taiwanese partners, and mostly deal with social issues, especially personal explorations of transcultural themes.

Fang Yun Lo, born in 1982, studied dance in Taipei and dance and choreography at the Folkwang University in Essen. Since 2008 Fang Yun Lo is working on her own dance/performance projects, since 2011 under the name Polymer DMT. As a performer she works with Stefan Kaegi / Rimini Protokoll (several projects), Lemi Ponifasio, Tino Sehgal, fieldworks, Robert Wilson, Ben J. Riepe and Cindy Hammer / go plastic company, among others.
Fang Yun Lo lives and works in Dresden, Essen and Taichung. She is a member of the local dance scene associations Tanznetz Dresden and IG Tanz Essen. Her production „Better Life?“ was nominated for the Taishin Arts Award 2021.

CONTACT

Production management:
Sabina Stücker (DE), mail@sabina-stuecker.de
Tsai Ya-Ting (TW), yating725@gmail.com

Technical director:
Max Rux, max@ruxx.de

Booking:
Stéphane Noël, stephane@materialise.io