

JOHANA POCKOVÁ

TO THE MADONNA WITH RUST

Music by Martin Tvrdý

Scenography and costumes by Vendula Tomšů

Light design by Jiří Šmirk



... „It elevated the markedly symbolic character of some scenes, together with the music and the light drawing, to the point of strongly emotionally colored perceptions embedded in the impressive atmosphere.“ (Jana Návrátová, Dance News, 29.9.2021)

Premiere: 21.9. 2021, Ponec – dance venue, Prague

The performance To the Madonna with Rust was nominated at the festival TANEK PRAHA 2022.

To the Madonna with Rust was so far presented 3 times – the premiere and first reprise at the Ponec – dance venue in Prague and one time in the DIOD theater in Jihlava.

Number of spectators on average: 220



photo credits: Vojtech Brtnicky

Abstract

The wheels of my bicycle pierced the fog and drove through puddles on the old, paved road in the quiet hills of Šumava. Dad and I drove wordlessly through the gloomy landscape and arrived at the dilapidated chapel. I stood in amazement. From the broken, rusted image, Madonna stared at me, her face sprinkled with rain.

The production is inspired by the personal experience of an unexpected encounter, which after years re-emerges from the depths of memory and comes to life. Solo singing with dance movement, light with fog, water with metal, moments of harmony and moments of anxiety guide a common dialogue about things that we can only touch in rare moments. For years, the memory has been overgrown with rust, and the details of the painting in the chapel have disappeared. Instead, a new image is created, composed of memories, dreams and associations, which take their form in a theatrical image.

What is it like to experience something that transcends us spiritually? For some it happens in a small forgotten chapel, for others when meeting an exceptional person. Some wait for this moment all their lives. The creators of the production invite you to a joint ceremony, a brief stop and silence.



Practical information

Credits

Concept, choreography, performing: Johana Pocková
Music: Martin Tvrđý
Scenography, costumes: Vendula Tomšů
Light design: Jiří Šmirk
Dramaturgical cooperation: Miřenka Āechová
Dramaturgical consultation: Cécile Da Costa, Dora Sulženko Hořtová
Classical music recordings: Lumír Pock
Graphic design: Magdaléna Hejzlarová
Thanks to: Jan Tomšů, Tomáš Knapěk

Produced by: POCKETART

Co-produced by: Tanec Praha / PONEC - dance venue, Tantehorse, SE.S.TA - Centre for choreographic development

Financially supported by: Prague City Hall, Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, State Fund for Culture of the Czech Republic

Supported by: Plum Yard, Dance News

Tour

Duration: 40 minutes

Headcount: 5 people - 1 performer / musician / light designer / technician / scenographer

Set up: day before show ideally

Stage dimensions: w/d/h – 12/6/6

Video

Full lenght theater version: <https://vimeo.com/640863679/a56af9b6a8>

Teaser: <https://vimeo.com/646799173>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/660092978>

Technical rider

Stage

minimal stage size 8m width x 10 m depth

distance of truss to stage is 6 m, flying bars of truss system must be empty

black box (black curtains horizontal and sides)

whole stage covered by black marley

lighting rider

Console: GMA2

hazer MDG Atmosphere

2pc ARRI 2kW

12pcs S4 zoom 25-50

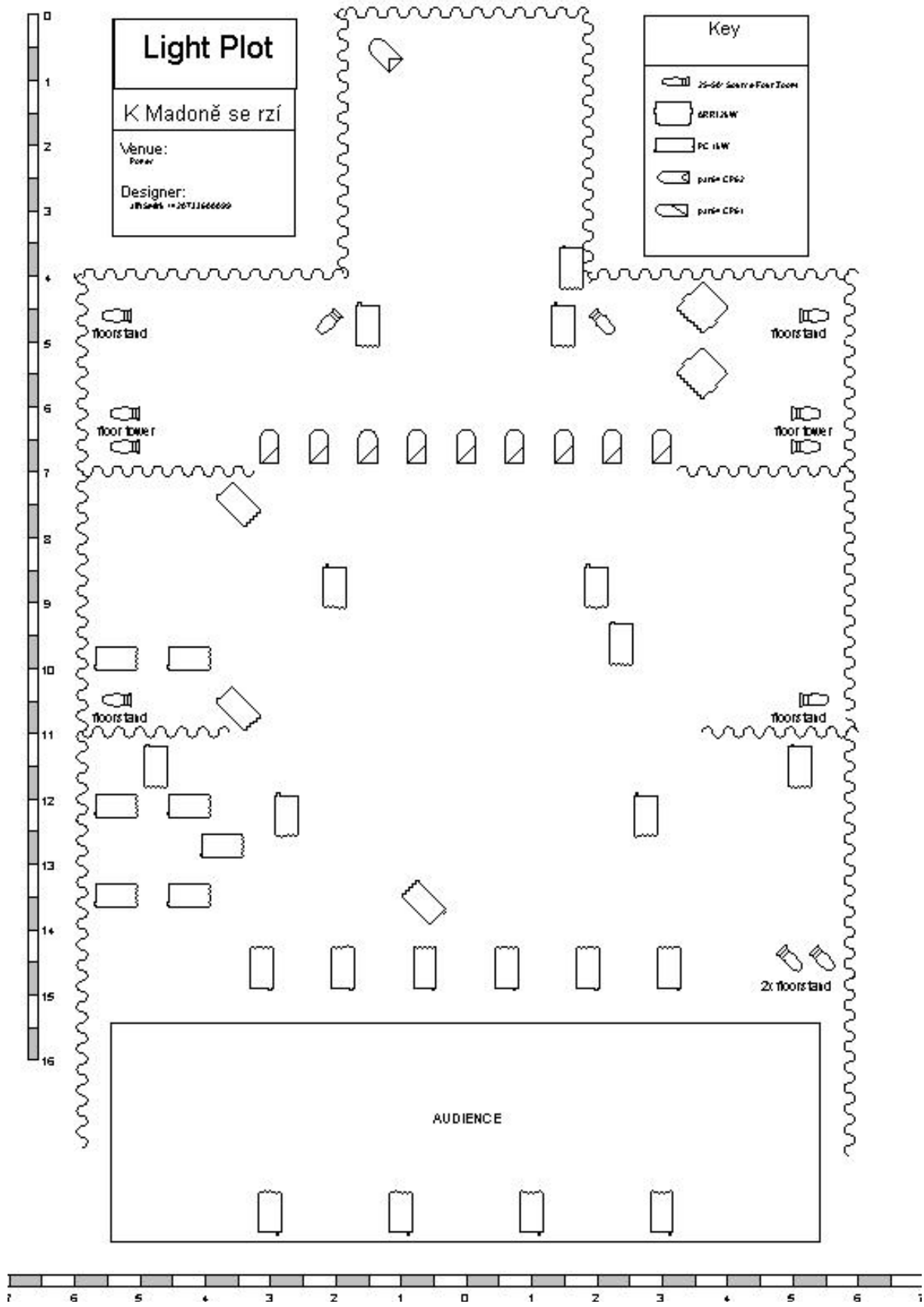
30pcs PC 1kW

POCKET ART

9pcs PAR64 CP61
1pc PAR64 CP62
2x boom stand/tower
8x floorstand

sound rider

4 paths - L/R front and L/R back
4 TS/ XLR INPUTS



Upcoming shows 2022

10.2. Ponec – dance venue, Prague
3.5. Ponec – dance venue, Prague
23.4. Plum Yard theater, Malovice

Reviews

... „It elevated the markedly symbolic character of some scenes, together with the music and the light drawing, to the point of strongly emotionally colored perceptions embedded in the impressive atmosphere.“ (Jana Návrátová, Taneční Aktuality, 29.9.2021)

Link: <https://www.tanečniaktuality.cz/recenze/zastaveni-s-madonou-se-rzi>

... „The poetics of intuitive poetry are not widespread in the pragmatic world of contemporary art today, but it is all the more valuable. It refers to the happier states of our souls.“ (Zuzana Smugalová, Opera+, 14.10.2021)

Link: <https://operaplus.cz/poeticka-johana-pockova/>

POCKETART collective

POCKETART is a team of creators working in the field of contemporary dance and physical theater under the direction of the choreographers Johana Pocková and Sabina Bočková. As part of its projects, the team brings together artists from the fields of dance, music, scenography, fine arts, and light design.

The work of the team is characterized by tackling topics that go beyond the personal experience of the individual and touch upon societal issues such as manipulation through media, global environmental threats, stress in a competitive environment, or the position of an individual in the corporate work system. The creators try to approach these topics comprehensively through detailed work with all theatrical components. For each of their works, they always look for a new stylization of physical expression unique to the topic at hand, creating dance images from specific body references. Through their distinctive poetics, visual purity and strong original music, the performances aim to give birth to a spiritual experience, compelling the audience to reflect on our society.

In 2018, the team introduced their first performance, Warehouses Full of Emotions, inspired by intergenerational views of femininity and the authentic memories of an old lady. Under the choreographic direction of Johana Pocková, four dancers collaborated on this work, as well as Pocková's 89-year-old grandmother and an 8-year-old girl. This performance was later transformed into the dance film Folds of Touch. In 2019, POCKETART introduced *Onto the Scale!* - Johana Pocková's duet with the central theme of stress in a competitive environment.

In 2019, having previously collaborated on several projects, Sabina Bočková and Johana Pocková created *Lion's Den*, a duet pondering the themes of media manipulation and political populism. This work was selected for the Czech Dance Platform 2020, included in Top 20 of the choreographic platform *AerowavesTwenty21*, and the duet was performed at the festivals TANEČ PRAHA 2020 and 2021, Kenya International Theater Festival, New Baltic Dance Festival, Malá Inventura, and the Flora a festival in Olomouc.

In the following years, the performance *Lion's Den* was transformed into two other projects. One of them is the outdoor performance *Jáma Ilová UNLIMITED*, which involves 14 professional and 14 non-professional dancers, who together create and subsequently perform choreography based on the original duet. This project was part of the festival TANEČ PRAHA 2021 and was shortlisted for the European platform *Big Pulse Dance Alliance*. The *Lion's Den* was also included in the project *Shape It!*, which gives artists an opportunity to collaborate with children and adapt their work for young audiences. The partners of *Shape It!* are The Place London, Comune di Bassano del Grappa, Tanec Praha, and Annantalo.

In 2020, the team premiered *Treatment of Remembering*, a performance created by Sabina Bočková, Johana Pocková, and Inga Zotova-Mikshina. It touches upon the topics of the global threat to the environment and the disappearance of nature from our world. This piece won the International Jury Prize and the Audience Award at Czech Dance Platform 2021, as well as being included in *Aerowaves Twenty22*.

The latest POCKETART piece is *To the Madonna with Rust*, a solo performance by Johana Pocková, which was nominated for TANEK PRAHA festival 2022.

The long-term co-production partners of POCKETART are Tanec Praha z.ú. and Ponec dance venue. The creative team is financially supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, the Capital City of Prague, the State Cultural Fund and Prague 3 City District. POCKETART's performances are regularly performed on Prague stages such as the dance venue Ponec, Venuše ve Švehlovce, Studio ALTA, as well as in venues around the Czech Republic and abroad.

Biography

Johana Pocková (*1992) graduated from the Duncan Centre Dance Conservatory in Prague, completed a six-month internship at the Peridance Capezio Centre in New York and two years at the SEAD (Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance). She is currently devoting herself to auteur choreography. In 2017, she won the Jarmila Jeřábková Award for her choreography *MURDER! A little comic book history*. In recent years, she has also presented the productions *Why Not Now?*, *Na Váhu!* and *Full Warehouses of Emotions* and the dance film *Folds of Touch*. Together with Sabina Bočková, she is the creator of the performance *The Lion's Den*, which was selected for the Czech Dance Platform 2020, among the top 20 productions on the European platform *Aerowaves 2021*. Her work has been supported by the Big Pulse Dance Alliance organization and in 2022 with the duet *The Lion's Den* she will be part of the European project for young audience *Shape It!*. Her latest work together with Sabina Bočková and Inga Zotová-Mikshina, *Treatment of Remembering*, which won the International Jury Award and the Audience Award at the 27th edition of the Czech Dance Platform and it was selected for the *Aerowaves22*. In 2019 she founded the dance association POCKETART and in 2020 she won the first Dance News Award for her contribution to the dance scene. As a performer, she collaborates with the Tantehorse and tYhle companies. In her creations, Pocková is interested in searching for original forms of lyrical and poetic dance language combined with absurdity and irony based on actual social and cultural topics. She is also interested in combining art forms with dance such as classical singing, acting and visual arts.



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