

Review in Deadline bij Sanne Wiltink

Confrontation in 'WE'

A mysterious wooden construction can be found at St. Janskerkhof in Utrecht. The circular hut contains numerous small doors behind which the visitor can take a desk chair in his own small compartment. It becomes pitch-dark around you and you look to hold on to for cracks in the door that has been closed behind you. There is no way back. The peepshow *'WE'* by Roos van Geffen at the Festival aan de Werf can take off.

Awkward feeling on ten square feet

Very slowly some light shines in the darkness, but it remains vague what actually is illuminated. An alienating, shady music looms up. An awkward feeling creeps in while you find yourself in this cage of 10 square feet. What is going on? Will a person suddenly jump in the window in front of you? Slowly a face can be distinguished, but it is not clear whether it is a real person or just a projection. The carousel in the middle of the hut takes some time to start turning and the next moment a beautiful woman is gazing at you. What are you going to do? Are you looking away, do you smile or are you studying her just like she studies you? How does it affect you if all of you is being gazed at?

Looking at and being looked at

Confrontation is the key word in this experience. During the first half, you are relatively safe in the dark and it is you who gazes uninhibited until someone turns on the neon light in your cubicle. Someone gives an extensive and detailed description of your face and asks questions. You feel honored as you are for a minute in the spotlight. But at the same time it makes you feel naked and ill at ease.

The ultimate Theatre

This is how theatre should be: Making a deep impression and personal. You become aware of your own individuality by coming to a standstill and finding yourself in an entirely different atmosphere with people who give their full attention to you. Until you open the door and you find yourself again among students on a bicycle and noisy buses that pass by.

'WE' by Roos van Geffen. Production: Festival aan de Werf, Utrecht. 23 May at the Festival aan de Werf, Janskerkhof Utrecht.