

Open Heart Surgery Theatre presents ...

This Is Why We Live

A theatrical collage inspired by the poems of Wisława Szymborska



Combining physical theatre, live music and clown; two actors and a cellist bring to life the ironic and astonishing poetry of Nobel Prize winning poet, Wisława Szymborska. Performed in three languages with original musical score throughout, the play awakens us to the poetic state of wonder and a fragmented humanity with incredible insight, humour and precision. From a tango to a devotion to onions; to a conversation with stones and the stars above, *This Is Why We Live* is a celebration of the complexity of human existence and the poet herself, one of the greatest voices of the 20th century.

The play is performed by two actors (Alaine Hutton and Elodie Monteau) and cellist (Dobrochna Zubek) and involves live musical score, bringing to life 14 poems by Szymborska, performed in English, French and Polish with English surtitles.



Open Heart Surgery Theatre is an international theatre ensemble based in Toronto, Canada, led by Coleen MacPherson. We are a Lecoq-based theatre troupe that creates intercultural work focusing on female voices. We take an interdisciplinary approach to theatre making: merging live music, movement based traditions and dance to create original theatre that can speak to everyone. The company has toured work to France, U.K., Egypt, Canada and the U.S. *This Is Why We Live*



was recently showcased as part of the OFF Miłosz Festival in Krakow, Poland and was part of the 58th Season at La MaMa (Off Off Broadway), New York City's hub for experimental work.

Running Time: 70 minutes

"[a] 70 minute mimetic rendering of Szyborska's poetic world that embraces humor, pathos, absurdity, and tragic recognition" – Beate Hein Bennett (New York Theatre Wire)

<http://nytheatre-wire.com/bhb19092t.htm>

★★★★ Front Row Center, New York City

"[if you] long to be moved in a direction you didn't know you could be moved to in a direction you didn't know existed, then This is Why We Live may be the show for you." – David Walters

<https://thefrontrowcenter.com/2019/09/this-is-why-we-live/>

★★★★ (and a half) Reviews Hub, New York City

"Exploratory, honest, poignant" – Maggie McMuffin (Reviews Hub)

<https://www.thereviewshub.com/this-is-why-we-live-la-mama-new-york-city/>

"a highly successful experiment proving poetry's ability to transcend cultural and linguistic boundaries—and even make the leap from page to stage" – Joshua Crone (Reviews from the Underground, New York, New York)

<http://reviewsfromunderground.com/2019/09/23/szyborska/>



Technical Requirements:

Black box theatre space, 8m by 7m minimum, with the ability to arrange seating in U-shape, projector, ability to reconfigure seating arrangement to 'wrap' audience in the show and the use of a platform (6' by 8' and approximately 30 " off the ground).

Website: www.openheartsurgerytheatre.com

Instagram:

@ohsurgerytheatre

Twitter:

@OHsurgery

Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/168489795>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Openheartsurgerytheatre/>

Video of the show: Available upon request

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