

The Young Ensemble of the Circus Schatzinsel plays:

Mauermenschen

(Circus Theater/Physical Theater)

The Circus Schatzinsel is situated in Berlin at the May-Ayim Riverside next to the river Spree. Here stood one part of the German-German border with a direct view of the Wall and it's so called "death strip". Even today, when you look over the Spree, you can see the East Side Gallery. In this location a part of the Wall still stands as a historical monument. During the German separation several tragic incidents have occurred on this site. For these victims, mostly children and young adults, a memorial plaque has been erected on the May-Ayim Riverside. Conversations with adolescents of the Circus Schatzinsel revealed that lots of these stories already fell into oblivion or have never been told. Furthermore, our conversations showed that also adolescents of today's society are struggling against the notion of "wall". Young people cut themselves off their environment, using cellphones, mp3-players and the internet. Superficial ideal images are being created that need to be fulfilled.

The project achieves emotional depth through individual conversations of the 17 actors with contemporary witnesses of the Wall. The witnesses, Women and Men from the former eastern and western parts of Germany, are of different age and socialization and lived within Berlin or Brandenburg. In that sense, the witnesses become co-creators of the new circus theater and almost by the way reconnect the Circus Schatzinsel with its historical surroundings. The conversations provide an exchange between the different generations. Both sides speak about their individual experiences and fears, listen and get to know each other and therefore experience the similarities and differences of their stories. The adolescents explore the surroundings of the Circus Schatzinsel and gather material about the Wall: They take photos, search and interview contemporary witnesses, question their own families and bring together their impressions and information. This material has become the foundation of our production "Mauermenschen".

The scenery consists out of 15 large rectangular boxes that we built with the help of scene builders. The boxes are being used and played on in various ways. The young actors explore their material in movement-, object-, performance-, dance-theater, self-created life music and modern artistic. Thereby, the actors use their own creative potential. Bodies and voices are being used vigorously and the own topics and impressions are being expressed on stage. By using the boxes, the actors create offices, walls, sculptures and houses in order to show the consequences of walls being built.

The aim of this project is to create a production that reaches people of all ages, being a forum of remembrance, exchange and new creation, as well as researching in genre overarching art. We wish to travel to many different places with this production, in order to visit various performance spaces, starting at the Berlin Wall itself up to festivals of modern stage art. Our goal is to share our art with many people and to connect and exchange ourselves through taking part in

festivals. Artistically, the ensemble overcomes borders and walls, creating a synergy of different arts and searches for an overarching connection.