

Fathers - a new opera by The Lappetites

The project combines digital music composition, cultural observation, moving image, live visualization, video, documentary, fantasy, autobiographical interpretations, communication, projection, performance as well as crossing over into classical opera.

Fathers is structured from an overture and 9 scenes, all being ensemble stage scenes with the final one presenting a choir.

Scene 1 Roots, Wurzeln, Kongen
Scene 2 Survival, Überleben, Seizon Shukumei
Scene 3 Body Maps, Koerperkarten, Shintai zu
Scene 4 Love, Liebe, Ai
Scene 5 Beliefs, Glauben, Shinkou
Scene 6 Meeting, Begegnung, Deai
Scene 7 Father Daughter Axis, Vater-Tochter-Achse, Chichi Musume No Souguu
Scene 8 Illusions, Illusionen, Genkaku
Scene 9 Death, Tod, Shi

The stage uses three back projection screens (3 screens with 16:9 ratio) and a moving gauze (6x10m) at the front of the stage, as well as slide projectors, rotating motors, and crystals for projection, 4 video projectors and a multichannel sound system.

Video and spatialation is realized live in the performance space from the performers. The performers are 3 Lappetites as daughters, 3 male opera singers as the fathers, 1 Lappetite as video performer and a choir.

All pieces are collectively written by The Lappetites via internet collaboration, in total 19 new compositions, of which 4 are performed entirely live and 10 songs sung by the daughters and fathers and the choir.

Following 5 years researching the lives of their own fathers, a high ranking officer in the East German Army, an English arable farmer born on the land he still works, and a Korean business man emigrated to Japan, the Lappetites filtered real and historical material through current and digital transformations to tell a series of tales, sometimes tri-fold, sometimes singular, framed by the narrative, translating the cultural distances.

The Lappetites had no funding for this project except the 2 commitments by the premier venue HKW Berlin and a preview show at the Kontraste Festival, Krems, Austria. The work started with the idea of a multi media cultural opera in 2002 and was realized in 2009, with tremendous personal effort by the members of the collective The Lappetites.

Credits:

Production/Direction/Audio/Video : The Lappetites
Opera singers: Johannes Kuehn, Sascha Boerris, Clemens Gnad
Choir: the choir of the House of the World Cultures directed by: Phillip Neumann
Stage Technicians: Hermann Volkery, Adrian Pilling, Jason Dorn, Benjamin Brandt
Lighting: Andre Schulz
Sound: Matthias Hardenberger
Clothes of the Lappetites: Uli Dziallas and the Lappetites

Thanks to the fathers: Richard Matthews, Takeo Nemoto, Juergen Greie

Thanks to HKW and Kontraste Krems

short biographies of the performers Involved:

Antye Greie aka AGF (Germany/ Finland)

AGF aka Antye Greie is an East German singer and songwriter, producer known for the deconstruction of language and communication within music and abstract poetry. www.poemproducer.com

Blanca Regina Perez-Bustamante (Spain)

Blanca Regina Pérez-Bustamante Yábar aka Whitee is an audiovisual artist and teaches video art. www.whiteemotion.com

Kaffe Matthews (UK)

Kaffe Matthews was born in Essex, England. She lives and works in London and has been making electronic music since 1990.

Ryoko Akama (Japan)

Ryoko Akama is a video/sound artist.

Johannes Kühn (Berlin)

studied at Hochschule für Musik FRANZ LISZT, Weimar and acting at Universität der Künste, Berlin. Bariton.

Sascha Boerris (Berlin)

studied with Prof. Herbert Brauer and at Hochschule für Musik "Hanns Eisler", Berlin. Bass.

Clemens Gland (Passau)

studied at [Hochschule für Künste in Bremen](#) with Prof. Thomas Mohr as well as at the renowned studio of [Maestro David Jones](#) in New York.

HKW choir

around 30 singers of all ages and different origins

directed by Phillip Neumann

Premiere Text by HKW

WORLDTRONICS09: The Lappetites
Wed 25.11.2009 | 20 h
Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin

Adventure, pioneering spirit, thinking outside the box – that's what this is all about... Electronica Surprise opens with the premiere of the laptop-opera "Fathers" – beyond all genre limits.

"Fathers" bursts all media, musical and geographical boundaries. The Lappetites is an ensemble of four women: Antye Greie aka AGF (Berlin / Finland), Kaffe Matthews (London), Ryoko Akama (Tokyo) and Blanca Regina Pérez-Bustamante (Spain). Actually, each of them is a soloist in her own right, working in electronic songwriting, club, new music and multimedia. Their fathers' lives are the subject of the opera, presenting interviews of very different types of men. A video triptych accompanied by narrative voices, singers, programmed and live electronics— documentary and sound sculpture mixed into one.

TEXT spoken in 3 languages

Salt Story

once upon a time - es war einmal - (japanese)
there was a king
who had 3 daughters

he spoke
who of you loves me most
the one shall govern after me

the first daughter spoke (one of us says, ryoko!)

i love you like untouched nature
pure, wild, meaningful

the second daughter spoke (kaffe)

i love you like the arts
music, sound, emotional questioning

the third daughter spoke (agf)

i love you like the uncensored internet
progress, communication, liberation

the king answers

why is non of you saying, you love me like salt
dont you know this is an ancient fairy tale

the girls answer

salt is no good for you papa
you use herbs instead

you shall govern all 3 of you
to make decisions you have to agree

but dad: we will agrue so much

i trust you, arguing will be the salt in the soup!

Lyrics

father song

when my father`s memory becomes my own
when my father`s life is spoken and flows

no waste of time with emotional depression
only to walk forward with action

in hidden places of his own
there must be what he really is

year after year
day on day
tag ein tag aus

pünktlich
zuverlässig
regeln
aufgaben

in hidden places of his own
there must be what he really is

a man of earth
daichino hito (the man of earth)
mann der machines
kikaino hito /seijino hito
(the man of the machine, the man of the politics)

no waste of time with emotional depression
only to walk forward with action

in hidden spaces of his own
there must be so much of tears and memories
that will not be come out to be shown
to be seen by the others

in hidden places of his own
there must be what he really is

RA, AG 2009

Rise with the day

(daughter)

I rise with the day
In the light or the dark
I feel the air is cold today
Will the rain clouds part?

Plant we the seed in rows so long
Roots sink down low, leaves to the sky
To fruit to feed
No weed to grow here
No weed to grow here
How much can we grow?

We shall feed you
We shall feed you
We shall feed you
We shall feed you.

The weather my master
I have no control
I rise with the day
Till, nurture my soil.

(father)

It was upon a spring day
Out walking crops with Father
The air the space the beauty
There was no doubt or question,

This land is my home
Where my family have grown
My heart will rise with the day
Till the light has flown.

Plant we the seed in rows so long
Roots sink down low, leaves to the sky
To fruit to feed
No weed to grow here
No weed to grow here
How much can we grow?

This land is my home
Where my family have grown
This soil will grow with the day

When our breath has long flown.

KM. 2009.

Skype Meeting (sung by opera singers)

richard, *juergen*, **takeo**

INTRO

hello, *hallo*, **konnichiwa**
guten tag, *hi*, **guten abend**

my name is richard
mein name is juergen
i am takeo, nice to meet you
nice to meet you
i do speak a little bit of english

VERSES

ich war noch nie in japan (i never been to japan)
in meinem leben In this place
der mittelpunkt waren autos

i have never been to japan
i have lived In this country
i work with soil

i have never been to europe
In this world
i work with night???

CHORUS

i hope to see you one day
ich hoffe ich werde sie mal im echten leben
i hope to see you in real life

: all: so we can have a drink together

I heard a lot about you
wir sprachen über sie
I heard a lot about you

The world has changed
like a speedy dream
we grandfathers now
and the world got so small

Born in english land
Born on east german ground
Born in japan after war

Old as my wrinkles
grey as my hair
gone like my anger/ Silvery as my white hair

Heavy as our long long history.
Big as the earth where we stand on.
Warm and dry as nostalgic memory of mother

What do I expect.
I met you well. It is a delight.

I wander the wood to get out of the best exit.
That promises the life next.

CHORUS

i hope to see you one day
ich hoffe ich werde sie mal im echten leben
i hope to see you in real life

: all: so we can have a drink together

義理と人情

正義心と親友の愛の靈魂形あり
生まれし時から母上の真の心我力なり

ああ、人のためにと取りはからう

義理と人情 どっちが正しい
私が守らねば 従い従われ

千代をや重ね 豊かに舞う
春夏秋冬 時を踏む

静かに

duty and sympathy

the sense of injustice, the spirit of love of close friends
it exists, in shape.

since the birth, the honesty of mother
that is the strength in my life

ah, i manage always only for the other humans

duty and sympathy
which is right?
liability for protect others
obeying and obeyed

time, ages,
piled over
dance gracefully

spring summer autumn winter
treading on life

quietly
quietly

RA, 2009

FATHERS - SCORES 25 Nov. - TOTAL APROX 93 minutes

Overture - Duration: 5'14"

TIME	MUSIC	SCREENS	LIGHTING	ONSTAGE
00:00- 03:00	- Main Mixer (Kaffe)	no image	None	None , 3 desks
03:00 - 04:14	- Main Mixer (Kaffe)	Fade in Globe Gauze Screen	None	None , 3 desks
04:14	- Main Mixer	Off Gauze Ryoko	Fade slow 3 profiles desk	Kaffe comes down to stage left and Antye goes to middle stage and Ryoko moves to the desk
4: 14 - 05: 14		maps 3screens	3 profiles desk	Kaffe, AGF, Ryoko at Desks

05:15 Chapter Marker 1 // Duration 00 : 15 seconds //

Scene 1- ROOTS- Duration 04'35"

TIME	MUSIC	SCREENS	LIGHTING	ONSTAGE
05:30- 10:05	Off 3films Blanca	3films,	3profiles desk 3chairs shadows	Kaffe, AGF, Ryoko at Desks sitted still in front of audience
	Fade out	Fade out	Fade Out	Kaffe, AGF, Ryoko at Desks
02'00 "	Father Song -	Nothing on Gauze&3screens	Spotlight into the audience following Johannes onto stage	Kaffe, AGF, Ryoko at Desks
			Fade in 3profiles desk slow blue shadow on stage	Kaffe, AGF, Ryoko at Desks Sasha sings front gauze, stage left Move back to chair in blue shadow
				Kaffe pulls back gauze

Chapter Marker 2 // Duration 00 : 15 seconds //

Scene2 - WORK- Duration 8'42"

TIME	MUSIC	SCREENS	LIGHTING	ONSTAGE
	3films Blanca + live on stage	bang 3 films at the back solos on gauze mixed	None 3 spots	Agf , Kaffe and Ryo on stage

End of scene2- " Rise with the day "- Duration- 02:35

TIME	MUSIC	SCREENS	LIGHTING	ONSTAGE
	Main Kaffe with amber shadow	Gauze with wheat	Desk lights, amber shadow	Kaffe Ryo and AGF in desks ,Sasha in chair
	Sasha +Main Kaffe	Gauze with wheat	Low lights sides of gauze	Sasha comes front side of gauze
01'13"	Real dad movie James Bond	Gauze	None	Kaffe Ryo and AGF

Chapter Marker 3// Duration 00 : 15 seconds //

Scene3 - BODY MAPS- Duration: 4' 36"

TIME	MUSIC	SCREENS	LIGHTING	ONSTAGE
	Kaffe	Gauze- Palms +synchronator	Table lights	Kaffe, AGF, Ryoko on tables
End		Off gauze Agf Fade out palms	No lights	Remove Kaffe and Ryo tables.

Chapter Marker 4// Duration 00 : 15 seconds //

Scene4- SALT STORY + LOVE SCENE -

SALT STORY - Duration 2' 57"

TIME	MUSIC	SCREENS	LIGHTING	ONSTAGE
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3 films 3 videos No lights AGF on Table.

LOVE - 3 minutes

screen	AGF,Ryo&Kaffe(mics)	love Ryo film	shadows Red Ryo	AGF on Table, Kaffe and Ryo singing behind
screen	AGF,Ryo&Kaffe(mics)	love Kaffe film	shadows Amber Kaffe	AGF on Table Kaffe and Ryo singing behind
		Big Beamer		

Kaffe at the end comes up to general mixing desk, Fade all to black pause.

INTERVAL - 01'00

01'00"	Choir hums in auditorium	None	None	Ryo and AGF on stage
	End Humming	None	Shadow red light	Clemens from red shadow to center stage
03' 40"	Shamison Song Clemens + Main Kaffe	None	Light in singer	Clemens on the stage singin first acappella
01'20"		Real Takeo Film		

Chapter Marker 5// Duration 00 : 15 seconds //

Scene5 - BELIEFS- Duration 06:50

TIME	MUSIC	SCREENS	LIGHTING	ONSTAGE
	Main Kaffe + AGF+ Ryo	Fire Big beamer	1Table light	Ryoko at middle table Agf handheld mic
		3 films		

In minute 6 audio fade out (Kaffe moves to sing) Kaffe goes into and aisle into center Girls sing along acappella
Fade all to black and Agf table out

Chapter Marker 6// Duration 00 : 15 seconds //

Scene 6 - SKYPE- Duration: 5 minutes.

TIME	MUSIC	SCREENS	LIGHTING	ONSTAGE
	From films	3 films	None	Nothing on stage
After 2 minutes audio fade out				
skype song : 3 minutes				
light from the top	From stage	3 films	For 3 singers+ profiles	Sasha come from the left - Hello , Hello, to position left ,
light from the top	Sasha, Clemens			Clemens came from the right - Konichiwa to position right,
from the top	Johannes			Johannes comes from the left- Guten Tag to center , light

Fade all to black and Antye set on the gauze

Chapter Marker 7// Duration 00 : 15 seconds //

Scene7 - Father Daughter Axis- 5 minutes (estimated)

TIME	MUSIC	SCREENS	LIGHTING	ONSTAGE
	Kaffe main desk	Gauze and back	No light	None

TIME	MUSIC	SCREENS	LIGHTING	ONSTAGE
3 min.	Agf Krummgeborgen			

1: 20		Real dad movie	Down sides front gauze and profile	Agf , front gauze, Ryo and Kaffe Bring the tables
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Chapter Marker 8// Duration 00 : 15 seconds //

Scene 8- ILUSIONS- Duration :07:30

TIME	MUSIC	SCREENS	LIGHTING	ONSTAGE
	AGF, Ryo, Kaffe	Slides (start)	Sides down between back and gauze start when musicians	4 tables

Chapter Marker 9// Duration 00 : 15 seconds //

Scene 9- DEATH- Duration : 9 minutes

TIME	MUSIC	SCREENS	LIGHTING	ONSTAGE
	Stage and Choir	None	Front stage Strobes and light design	Kaffe , Ryo .AGF. Singer and Choir