

In 2013, the German Centre of the International Theatre Institute hosts the second series of film screenings. Once a month, a film by Michael Roes is presented at the media library of mime centrum berlin:

31 January 2013, 6 p.m.

TIMIMOUN

14 February 2013, 6 p.m.

ELEVATION

7 March 2013, 6 p.m.

BREAKDANCE IN CHINA

Each screening is followed by a discussion with Michael Roes. Moderated by Christel Weiler.

Free admission.

Location

Kunstquartier Bethanien
Mediathek mime centrum berlin
Mariannenplatz 2
10997 Berlin-Kreuzberg

An initiative of the International Research Center "Interweaving Performance Cultures" in cooperation with the International Theater Institute and mime centrum berlin.

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VERFLECHTUNGEN INTERWEAVING VON THEATER PERFORMANCE KULTUREN CULTURES

Cinematic Works by Michael Roes

- second series -

TIMIMOUN.

An Algerian Oresteia

Laid and Nadir, two young Algerian men, are on their way to Timimoun, an Oasis in the middle of the Sahara. Laid receives a letter from his sister Assia in which she asks him to come home and free her from the tyranny of her stepfather.

Laid works as a photographer in the coastal city of Bejaia. Here, at the Mediterranean Sea, is where his journey into the hostile desert begins: he and his friend Nadir, a car mechanic, leave the 'European' north of the country to travel deeper and deeper into the traditional tribal areas.

Their adventurous journey is not only a trip back into Laid's traumatic past; it is also a journey into the brutal conflicts of present-day Algeria. In the film, the different stages of their trip are interrupted by flashbacks, which shed light on Laid's tough childhood in Timimoun.

The Greek myth of Orestes, son of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra, serves as the background of this modern Odyssey: after ten years of war against Troy, Agamemnon returns home to his kingdom Mykene. In his absence, his wife had entered into a relationship with his cousin, Aegisthos. Upon his return, Clytemnestra kills Agamemnon because he had sacrificed their daughter Iphigenia. Orestes, brother of Iphigenia and Electra, is forced to flee into exile, but returns several years later to avenge his father's death.

Laid (Orestes) starts on this journey rather reluctantly. He is bound by family honour, although he has long been living the life of a young urbanite, freed from traditional values, in Béjaïa. This inner

rift, this path from purely superficial emancipation back into the web of inescapable family and clan ties, are at the heart of the film.

With Laid Berkati, Nadir Yousfi, Nacer Chenouf and others. Digital video, 102 minutes, colour. Germany 2005.

ELEVATION

This film is a poem. A visual and acoustic poem. Two fugitives, maybe Ned and Dan, maybe Estragon and Vladimir, are drifting through the New World, more concretely: through Budapest. They are looking for the promised land. They want to belong. To have a part in freedom. To be recognised, socially and sexually.

The film tells no story. The viewer remains at a distance. The inner and outer drama is not his. Roes constructs his filmic poem in harsh black-and-white images, building up the rhythm of aimless violence, malevolence, and the song of the quest for dignity and respect.

Encounters with what is foreign are a constant in Michael Roes' work, in his novels, stage plays, radio dramas, and films. His is an ethnological gaze. Whether in the novel *Rub' al-Khali - Leeres Viertel* (1996) or in his movie *Timimoun* (2005), Roes addresses the chasm between what is our own and what is foreign, as well as the yearning to bridge it.

With Nadir Yousfi and Laid Berkati. 115 minutes, English with English subtitles. Hungary/Germany 2006.

BREAKDANCE IN CHINA

Filmed and produced by Michael Roes, *Breakdance in China* is a rare document about the life of youngsters in the Chinese city of Nanjing. It tells of their dreams and desires, shows their enthusiasm for various forms of street culture, for breakdance, graffiti and heavy metal, but also for traditional Kunju (Kun opera). In a perceptive and sensitive manner, the film conveys an impression of both the strength of subversive practices and the mechanisms of familial and social repression.

Digital Video, 90 minutes, colour, 16:9, stereo. Chinese, English, German with English subtitles. China 2007 und 2012/13.