



The end. And what's next?

Zero Hour by Different Theatre School from Węgajty Theatre

directed by Waclaw Sobaszek

This year's festival in Węgajty again began with a spectacle of Different Theatre School (Inna Szkoła Teatralna). What brings a bit of dread is that – as far as the last year's show was oriented on doubting about consumptionism – this year we deal with apocalyptic Zero Hour.

Is it because we feel there is a storm forming faster and faster? Spectacle consisted of a collection of etudes connected to different extend,s begins with introducing a topic of global cathastrophy. Both ecological one which is an effect of human actions and a social cathastrophy manifesting itself in military conflicts and xeophobia, but mainly in social divisions. Another cathastrophy brought up in the show is the vanishing of diversity in both cultural and biological sphere.

Undoubtly globalisation, growth of consumption and demographic explosio,n influence fast changes of our world – what we fearfully observe. And although we observe those changes in catastrophical temper we do not know what they will bring. We feel that we stand in front of Zero Hour hanging over heads of spectators during the whole show. The question though remains: is it in fact there, or maybe this feeling is a result of eternal human need of uniqueness – of being a part of critical moment of the history leading to a sudden big change? Actors of IST say about zero hour: "There will be no explosion. It will arrive silently, slowly, it will lie over us as the night or will wake us up as the sunbeam. Or maybe not?' Will this change result in good or bad way? Or maybe it doesn't matter, cause cathegories of good and bad are a human invention?"

Characters move strenuously forward and switch on a postapocalyptic clock. In fact it demands some effort of overcoming fatalism and ones own fears and looking ahead to the future. To the world which will be different than the one we know, but most probably will consist some signs of life, left with neverending question about it's sense. "We don't have any goal, but we keep running".

As recalls the final song of the performance, each lifeform creates it's own reality. Using diverse forms, the spectcple leads us from the concern about the condition of the world to awareness of constant change and admiration for the essence of both reality and existance.

Tymon Siejkowski