

The ladder constructor

The film by Katarzyna Marcysiak *Looking for the man of the heart* is an example of the essence movie. Its source is not only the character of the protagonist himself – „a renaissance” artist Khalid Tyabji; crystal-like vision of the director and her determination and the artistic ploy, owing to which Marcysiak managed to persuade the man to production of a self-referential film and „steal” from him, in form of images, many improvised acts not indented for any spectators; but most of all, the topic itself. *Looking for the man of the heart* deals with facing the mourning after the loss of beloved woman experienced by a grown-up man and an extraordinarily experienced artist. The mourning equally painful like any other but comprising, parallelly to suffering after the loss of love, life partner and friend, also that related to a loss of companion at work, co-creator of artistic acts. A symbolic and eloquent sign of that mourning became a broken ladder – a specific thing, allowing the artist to deal with human fate, and an emblematic stage prop discovered and used for many years by Tyabji in theatrical work with Jolanta Cynkutis. (The Artist spoke about the „humanization of a ladder”, in a way like how it could be said about the „ladderization” of a man; and he perceived the ladder as a tool for showing two perspectives, vertical and horizontal in human life).

The mourning after leaving of Jolanta Cynkutis was for Khalid Tyabji also another liminal experience, which abundance in his life astonishes. The aim of different experience of a similar function and strength of impact, such as: meeting traditional communities, in-depth university studies or artistic research conducted in a very remote country on a different continent (read: in Poland) inspired by works of Jerzy Grotowski, was becoming each time the confrontation of an artist and a man (or rather a man of art) with the inner different. That multitude of identities of Tyabji: of an artsman – a dancer and performer of many faces (in which make-up and fool's clothes have a function similar to hip band and artistic and human sense of being stripped), a carpenter or a jogin, a teacher of young artists, „a man of a privacy” looking after plants, of a man saving his heart in face of despair through involvement into work on theatrical performance, not only illustrates numerous Khalid's talents and skills, but testifies to the depth of his humanity. The art once again happens to be the rescue and cure, gives strength and helps to confront death and make the way for love. At the same time, from the multitude of social roles and activities undertaken by the artist he comes across as a fully integral, emphatic and strong human being, a tablo of a fully human, an incarnation of individual that is indivisible. It can be written about Khalid Tyabji like Grzegorz Ziółkowski wrote about George Ivanovich Gurdjieff – „a builder of bridges”, and the movie about him directed by Katarzyna Marcysiak can be watched whenever we lack strength, inspiration or courage to do art as well as to live; first of all, to live in full human capacity, despite agony and grief.