

## Series 'These Theses'

Since 2004 Paz Rojo has been working on the series entitled 'These theses'. These gestures can be presented in various venues and events. More than product oriented, These Theses function as specific and open circumstances may be, emerging out of different contexts and of different ways of creating a meeting.

These Theses rehearse and re-labour-ate the space of performance upon which communication is challenged and rearranged: Texts, letters, dialogues, postcards, manuals, vocabularies, and presence... 'These Theses' could be defined as "surgical interventions" upon specific questions.

'This is Love', "This is Hospitality" and "This is Fidelity" are part of these series.

### **Gesture 1: This is love (2004-2005)**

#### **A letter**

We come into the stage with a pack of envelopes in our hands. We place them on the floor. We go where the microphone is. I start to read a paper, which it is at the same translated into the language that is spoken in the land where the performance is taking place. In the two languages (my own and the other) a 'love letter' is addressed to the audience. A short fade out comes at the end. We disappear in the light. The audience is invited to take with them the envelopes with the letter inside.

This paper was created for a better understanding of the phenomenon of theatre. Phenomenon that speaks creates silences and transforms a meeting. Between offer and reception, this meeting, looks for possible attitudes towards the process of looking and listening and the position we take and our history within them. This lecture, as a performative act, refers to an active mediation: An ethical moment which doesn't remind silent but that it becomes a game of staying silent, perpetually starting over and over again...

Written by: Paz Rojo

Performed by: Paz Rojo & Guest

### **Gesture 2: This is Hospitality / Manual For a promising Machine (2006-2007)**

#### **An staged dialogue**

We are all hostess of each other. This means that our situation in the world is, like in theatre, within a structure of reception and meeting. It also means that the relationship of 'hostess' occupies a relation of hospitality and not one of ignorance or hierarchy, masters or slaves. I want to rethink this term in a theatrical context where there is always the promise (that it is fulfilled or

not) of a meeting and reception between performer and spectator or audience (to expect and to listen). I want to explore this meeting through the ideas behind the issue of hospitality: the 'host' and the 'hostess' (the audience and the performer; or the performer and the audience). My other interest is to explore the ethics implicit in this situation of hospitality. Ethics that have to do more with events and also with passion rather than action since it supports the idea, that the human experience is less the gathering of different initiatives based on essences or truths but based on responses to different invitations or requirements, which the world brings us forward often without our contentment or prior preparation. The experience of hospitality in this context is the learning process with what is always an-other and always, therefore waiting to be negotiated.

In 'This is Hospitality', the presentations will be a response to different invitations and encounters of Paz with someone else (artist, choreographer, curator...). The formats will be different, depending on the context and the person she meets.

Paz Rojo and Christa Spatt met in various situations as artists and curator. They were hostess and guest to each other, sharing proximity in the theatre and sharing ideas about theatre in talks. They appreciate that, even if they do not know or fully understand each other. In 'Manual for a Promising Machine' they meet again and speak with each other and to a third one about what the sharing of time and space in theatre could imply.

Written and performed by Paz Rojo and Christa Spatt.

Anatomical Theatre Revisited Conference  
Venue: University Theatre- Nieuwe Doelenstraat 16 Amsterdam  
8<sup>th</sup> of April at 12:00-12:30 Hours

## **This is fidelity (2007)**

### **A response**

Dance is not a given. It is an active process of embodying certain possibilities, a complicated practice of appropriation that acts in and on one who is dancing and on the one who is looking at her. So as to be effective, so as to work it out, dance requires, like any subjective strategy, sustained, precise and deliberated, a violent touch: it must be responding...

After Gesture 1 This is Love (a performative letter) in 2004 and Gesture 2 This is Hospitality (a performative dialogue together with Christa Spatt) during 2006; Paz is presenting Gesture 3 This is Fidelity as a intervention-response to Ivana's Muller video lecture "On Belief" as part of the event LISA live(s) in Kikker, Theater Kikker, Utrecht, NL. Responses, letters, dialogues, postcards; these gestures are inscribed on the site of the tactical and the performative and are part of Paz Rojo's research project entitled "These Theses" (2004-2007).

Concept, text and performance by Paz Rojo