

Daniel Hellmann
Soya the Cow:
Dear Human Animals

A production by Daniel Hellmann/3art3
in coproduction with Gessnerallee Zürich & Schlachthaus Theater Bern

Premiere: 24 November 2020



Photo: Olivia Schenker

Daniel Hellmann? Never heard of him! That's a neglect. The Zurich-based singer, performer, dance and theater maker is to the arts what veganism is to gastronomy: he is the answer to one and more crises of meaning. His alter ego is "Soya the Cow," a sex-positive, feminist, lactose-intolerant drag cow.

(Neue Zürcher Zeitung)

Abstrakt

How do we bear something that is unbearable? How do we change something that we cannot change all by ourselves? And how do we become something that we are not?

Soya the Cow attempts the impossible. As a species-fluid, vegan drag cow she stands for love, freedom and climate justice for all living beings. With strong arguments and moving songs she challenges the self-image of humankind as the centre of the universe, to which all non-human beings are subordinated. Deeply rooted in the fundamental discomfort of a single individual, Soya transcends human limitations. She is pop star and healer, activist and clown, present and future.

Daniel Hellmann's new solo performance is carried by the power and ridiculousness of his cow-shaped desire to change the world. „Dear Human Animals" uses the theatre space for the experience and reflection of transformative action.

A fictional TV show

"Dear Human Animals" is a one-cow show and framed as a fictional TV show. The audience experiences three episodes: a game show, a concert, and a journey into the future where veganism has become the global social norm. Between these episodes are moments of silence, doubt, and fragility, as well as documentary video footage that shows that Soya the Cow's work extends beyond the present theater evening. The boundaries between documentary and fiction, mockumentary and reality TV, theater and everyday life become blurred.

Contextualization to previous works

Daniel Hellmann has made a name for himself in the Swiss dance, theater and music scene as a versatile artist in recent years. Five years after his successful solo piece "Traumboy", which has since traveled internationally around the world in several languages and was invited to Swiss Selection Edinburgh and Sélection Suisse en Avignon, Hellmann presents a second solo piece, "Dear Human Animals", which questions conventional power relations and body relations. Here it is no longer about sex work, but about a rethinking of the relationships between humans and other animals, especially so-called farm animals.

Rahmenprogramm

In consultation with the organizers, workshops and excursions can be planned in addition to the performance, in which the audience and other interested human animals can get to know the realities that have shaped Soya the Cow - from the slaughterhouse to the animal sanctuary.

*Is it art? Is it activism? Is it entertainment?
Who cares, she makes the world a kinder place.*

Performances

24 - 29 November 2020

Gessnerallee Zürich

23 - 25 September 2021

Schlachthaus Theater Bern

+ Workshops & excursions throughout the season

Team

Daniel Hellmann (Artistic Direction/Concept/Performance)

Daniela Lehmann (Dramaturgy)

Philipp Constantin (Music)

Nora Smith (Video)

Ran Chai Bar-Zvi (Costumes)

Theres Indermaur (Scenography/Lights)

Anne Welenc, Marion Zurbach (Outside eyes)

Patricia Bianchi (Production)

Florence Francisco / Les Productions de la Seine (Diffusion)

Photographs: Olivia Schenker

Support

Stadt Zürich Kultur, Fachstelle Kultur Kanton Zürich, Pro Helvetia, Fondation Nestlé pour l'Art, Schweizerische Interpretenstiftung, Burgergemeinde Bern

Duration

ca. 100 minutes without pause

Language

German (Original version)

English & French version are possible with enough preparation time

Video documentation:

Opening Credits (fictional TV-Show): <https://youtu.be/NAcJlspy7o0>

Full show: <https://youtu.be/MsBZKpnllsc>

Technical Rider

The technical rider will be sent on demand.

Conditions

The financial conditions will be sent on demand.

On tour

6 people (1 performer, 1 stage assistant, 3 technicians (sound, light, video),
1 tour manager)

Audience reactions

You need to put on extra dates. It's a brilliant vision for everyone to see!

The show was very entertaining, nice to watch and listen to. And also stimulating. We are all culturally brainwashed, it takes time.... Thank you for your inspiration and your art. Having a child of my own motivates, me at least, to reflect on my own behavior.

Dear Human Friend, thank you from the bottom of my heart for this great piece! I was shaking, hoping, laughing, crying, thanking, loving! It was awesome!!! Thank you!!!

Thank you Daniel for your show and for titilating us this bladder that we call consciousness by reminding us that we live in a society whose modes of production are not only ethically unacceptable but also destructive of our ecosystems.

Thank you Daniel. I committed one month no meat, no fish, no milk. Thank you for extending my consciousness - i realize that its not what i eat but also what i wear.

The show really moved us. Thank you, Daniel. You are simply a genius.

I was touched by the sincerity of your approach and the strength of your commitment and conviction, which are truly palpable.

What an impressive piece! Must see! Thank you for a moving, stirring, uncomfortable and at the same time beautiful show!



Biography

Daniel Hellmann is a singer, performer, dance and theater artist from Zurich. He studied philosophy, classical singing and theater/performance and has been developing his own artistic and award-winning works since 2012. Hellmann sees his artistic practice as a form of intersectional activism. His projects examine the body, body relations and desire, and question social norms and power relations in the fields of sexuality, human and animal rights. He was awarded the June Johnson Dance Prize for his music-theatre performance Requiem for a piece of meat (2017) and invited to the Swiss Dance Days 2019. With his alter ego Soya the Cow - a sex-positive, feminist, vegan drag cow, he also performs in theaters, discussion groups and nightclubs and is currently recording his first music album. Finally, since 2018 Hellmann has curated the performing arts for the interdisciplinary gender & sexuality festival LA FÊTE DU SLIP in Lausanne.



Contact

Daniel Hellmann
info@daniel-hellmann.com
www.daniel-hellmann.com

@soyathecow (Social media)
www.soyathecow.com

Patricia Bianchi (Production)
patricia@daniel-hellmann.com

Florence Francisco (Diffusion)
Les Productions de la Seine
francisco.florence@orange.fr
+33 (0)6 16 74 65 42