



The Comedians / Die Komödianten / De Komedianten

2004, colour, video, 29 min.

Videoinstallation on 3 monitors

Three films are simultaneously screened on three monitors, or projected on three canvasses.

The video- installation is based on my film *Almost Real Life* (2003). During the process of editing I tried to play with the changing constellation of images presented on three monitors exploiting it to heighten the central theme: "playact or real life". For instance: Moritz is waiting on the subway-platform. He doesn't know which of the arriving trains is the right one. The simultaneous movement of riding trains invites us not only to play with visual effects, but also create the perfect illusion that Moritz seems to be threatened by trains. The pictures on the three monitors lend themselves not only for experiments with illusion of space and action, but also with the simultaneity of different perspectives.

Realisation: Rosemarie Blank

Camera & sound: Martin Gressmann & Martin Hansen & Rosemarie Blank & Jan Wouter van Reijen

Editing: Rosemarie Blank

Music: Jacob Höhne

Cast: the actors of Berlin's Ramba Zamba theatre company

Production: CASA-FILM, supported by 'Hauptstadtkulturfonds Berlin'

Release: august 2004, RAMBA ZAMBA theatre / Berlin

and Freibank Gallery Fürth / Germany.

Almost Real Life / Als wärs das wahre Leben / Als het leven zelf

2003, colour, video, 66 min, sound

Documentary

Both onstage and backstage, director Rosemarie Blank filmed the actors of Ramba Zamba, a Berlin theatre company for mentally disabled people. Behind the scenes, too, the actors are usually dressed for their parts. This blurs the boundaries between their personal reality and their role. What happens in the dressing room appears just as theatrical as the performances themselves - contemporary versions of classic tragedies like *Medea* and *Orpheus*. Modern drama, with sparse music and bare, abstract settings. The rehearsals and performances are emotion-ridden; a lot of crying, comforting, professing of love and quarrelling goes on. The actors often speak a language which is hard to understand for outsiders, but amongst themselves they understand each other perfectly. These actors live in their own world, as if on another planet.

Director: Rosemarie Blank

Production: CASA-FILM Rosemarie Blank

Script: Rosemarie Blank

Photography: Rosemarie Blank, Martin Gressmann, Martin Hansen

Editing: Rosemarie Blank, Jan Wouter van Reijen

Sound: Rosemarie Blank, Martin Gressmann, Martin Hansen

Sound mixing: Jac Vleeshouwers

Music: Jacob Höhne, Bianca Tänzer

TV copany: Kunstkanaal

Release: IDFA Amsterdam

Distribution: Filmbank Amsterdam

