

# PRESSRELEASE MOMOMENTO

## IN YOUR FACE



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### Basic Information:

Title: IN YOUR FACE

Creation and acting: Ruth Biller, Melanie Möhrl

Outside Eye: Maria Sendlhofer

Music: Philipp Schörghuber

Costumes: Sarah Kučica

Light Design/Technician: Clara Zeiszl

Duration: 70 Minutes

Age recommendation: Adults. Children are very welcome, but should be able to sit through the show and have an accompanying adult with them.

### About the Compagnie:

Momomento – narrative circus art was founded by Ruth Biller and has been realizing circus pieces for adult and young audiences since 2016. In those pieces, artistry, dance and acting merge into an expressive total work of art. The ensemble is flexible and changes depending by the demands of the pieces.

Momomento deals with different topics such as femininity in western society (“Marie hangs in the air”, 2016, coproduced by Dschungel Wien), lust in its different forms (“LUST-VOLL”, 2018, coproduced by Theaterland Steiermark), or on the transience of glittering circus magic (“Debris”, 2019). The pieces often include live music.

The performing artists of Momomento work both in the company and as freelance soloists, e.g. at the Landestheater St. Pölten or the Salzburg Festival and in ensembles such as the Dada circus or the Schubert theater. The team is enriched by two creative and capable technicians.

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### Short description of the piece:

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Two female artists dig under the surface of human behavior and take you on a tightrope walk where there is no right or wrong. In a composition of juggling, dance and physical theater, they get to the point, for which often no words can be found. A piece about communication, empathy and toothbrushes.

### Long description of the piece:

#### IN YOUR FACE

About communication, empathy and toothbrushes.

Two female artists dig under the surface of human behavior and take you on a tightrope walk where there is no right or wrong. In a composition of juggling, dance and physical theater, they get to the point, for which often no words can be found.

With a table and few props, the performers tell the story of a relationship. The two women, played by Ruth Biller and Melanie Möhrl, seem to be made for each other. They sensitively begin to set up a life for two. But with the routine of everyday life, however, the harmony between them begins to get lost more and more.

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### Detailed description of the piece - including resolution:

With a table and a few props, the performers tell the story of a relationship within in 70 minutes. The physical, non-verbal narrative style of the two artists, who create powerful images with their expressive artistry is outstanding for that piece.

The two women, played by Ruth Biller and Melanie Möhrl, seem to be made for each other. They sensitively begin to set up a life together. With the routine of everyday life, however, the harmony between the two begins to lose more and more. Mutual injuries but also banalities become the trigger for arguments. Deadly looks and balls flying sharply through the room announce the end of the relationship. Fortunately, there are many different ways to communicate and even though the two don't find a romantic relationship anymore, they meet on a peaceful level to part on good terms. The music was composed especially for the piece by Philipp Schörghuber and supports the performance in a fantastic way. Maria Sendlhofer accompanied the production as Outside Eye and the costumes which add color to the reduced stage are made by Sarah Kučica.

### About the process:

A research process lasting several months preceded the development of "In your face". In 2020 there was an artist residency held with *Kreativkultur* in Vienna and in summer 2021 at Cirkus Xanti in Norway after which a preliminary version of the play could be seen at two international circus festivals there. The source of inspiration for "In your face" is based on the theme of empathy. Empathy must be practiced, cultivated and questioned. Scientists have developed and researched various empathy training courses for different target groups such as children, people with psychological difficulties and people in leadership positions or in social services. Theories like these have led the company to their way of working on the performance inside the rehearsal room.

Empathy is defined, among other things, as "the basis of interpersonal relationships". Being empathetic means opening yourself up to a different point of view and imagining how the other person feels and/or feeling like the other person. It is the prerequisite for good cooperation and successful communication. A high level of empathy can influence or even manipulate one's own feelings and the feelings of others (up to a political extent). Putting yourself in someone else's shoes to explore kinesthetic boundaries and enter into a respectful and tolerant interpersonal relationship is taken for granted in our society. However, the ability to do so is lost between a tight schedule and social networks.

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### Artistic Curriculum / Biographies:

#### Ruth Biller

Ruth completed her state degree in acrobatics and artistry in Berlin in 2011. Since then, she has been working professionally as a freelance artist and dancer at home and abroad. In 2014 she won the jury prize at "Flesh Dance" in the Tanzquartier Wien with foot juggling. From 2014 to 2016 she was part of the "Flowmotion Dance Company". In 2016 she founded the association Momomento, with which she created the solo circus theater piece "Marie is hanging in the air" in cooperation with Dschungel Wien and funded by the federal government. In 2017 she opened the Lower Austrian State Exhibition with Sabine Parzer. In 2017 and 2018 Ruth played at the Lower Austrian State Theater. In 2018 she was employed as an artist in "The Magic Flute" at the Salzburg Festival. In autumn 2018 she created the federal and state funded in-house production "LUST-VOLL" with Momenmo, followed by the piece "Debris", produced in 2019 and funded by the federal and state governments. Between 2019 and 2021 she acted in various films (including a DARUM production)

#### Melanie Möhrl

Melanie's enthusiasm for the stage arose when she learned how to juggle. Instead of sailing around the world in a ship, as planned, she learned – largely self-taught – contemporary techniques of object manipulation. In 2016 she founded the Compagnie NiE together with Bernhard Zandl. In their play "Anschauen!" they work with absurd comedy and illusion techniques. The training at the art school "Die Herbststraße" and her craftsmanship also led her to making and playing puppets. She is a member of the ensemble of the Schuberttheater, where she plays in "Circus of Dreams" and equipped the production "Jedermann" with puppets.

For Interviews and questions please contact

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Kind regards  
Compagnie Momomento