If any question (please do not interfere)
Laurent Delom - 2016

Project description:

In this performance, the host receives three people at a time (like a visit to the doctor with your parents). It will last four minutes; it is repeated whenever three people are waiting.

This performance lasts the duration it takes to toast bread with a toaster. Within such control-freak short time-lapse the host reads the first page from the autobiographical book *Toast* by Nigel Slater. It describes in the first few lines how his mother systematically used to fail at toasting bread.

"In fact, I doubt if she has ever made a round of toast in her life
that failed to fill the kitchen with plumes of throat-catching smoke".

It deals with motherly love and therefore explains the recurring kitschy heart-shape through the cold set of the performance. In this time frame, the host catches his audience with surprise and strong empathy one after the other, to then bind them into bitter deceit. This emotional journey makes questions pop in their mind, in a way that seems controlled by the host up to a point where suspicion and frustration arise: who is that toast for?

"It is impossible not to love someone who makes toast for you".

Artistic statement:

As starting point I set myself a personal creative challenge: make a piece of the duration it takes to toast bread with a toaster. This initial idea worked as a magnet that attracted all the other components of the piece: the heart-shape, the book and the burning.

It crystallized with the personal and intimate sense that I was able to make out of it. In other words, it made me start telling my stories. It involved a romantic failure with the lover who gave me the book, the bittersweet love-bound with my own mother, and the cold doctoral speeches that one receives in therapy at the doctor. (And when there are three chairs, it means that the other two are for your parents…).

I organized and "choreographed" my chemistry in an attempt to solve the question: Can I bring the audience emotionally all that far with me?