

FISK KONA

Created and performed by Kerryn McMurdo (NZ)

Guest Performers: Nathalie Collins, Sanne Kabalt, Jérémy Pailler, Anni Spadafora, Jihyun Kim, Aimee Odum, Thany Sanches, Vera Arjoma, and a surprise mystery performer.

This performance has been conceptually developed from the interests of people in the community of Skagaströnd. During March Opið Hús I asked the community to anonymously write what they would like to see in a dance performance. I would then attempt to include and work with as much of these ideas as possible, as well as include and develop my own creative interests too. This process of gathering others' desires, concepts and interests to make a performance with, has allowed a kind of "conceptual collective participation" for the creation of this work.

Humans are storytellers. Everyone has a story to tell. We share and create stories to know, confirm, re-create and remember who we are. Whether our stories are real or imagined; told through literal, abstract or metaphorical means, all stories have some sense of relevance: for both the story-tellers and for the listeners.

If we thought for a moment that a story has desires like us, then perhaps a story is desperate to communicate to us. Perhaps it wants to be free. To be heard. It wants to talk, speak, utter, whisper, shout, or perhaps watch us very quietly for a long time until we are ready to hear it and/or share it.

Stories are inside us, stored in the body. Some stories are stored for a long time. Never uttered, never spoken of. They pretend to be absent. Hidden. Forgotten, or denied. Sometimes humans need to forget terrible things. Sometimes humans forget beautiful things.

Here is a story. I made it up with your input. It came from real images and experiences and transformed into many ideas and concepts. This story is told through dance and performance: it is created and translated through the human body.

This is a story of an infinite mythical being who came from the ocean and occupies a human female form. She is the bringer of life and death of the body. She bears a dead cod fish as a reminder that all living things and beings are a finite resource. She consumes and is consumed by materials of this world. She is the *fisk kona* (the fish woman, the fish wife).

Synopsis: notes and scenes of *Fisk Kona*:

Fisk Kona

Arrival. Human body and fish combine. The *fisk kona* makes her presence. We are living and dying: the body building and collapsing at the same time. It has always been this way. The ancestral body.

Rímúr

Remembering and hearing the sound of the past. Dressing and preparing the body. The body of ritual, the body of water.

Some notes on the Rímur (singing poem) *Hvítá River*:

The flowing river in Spring, you will live on after this song has finished. In the evenings your streams are milder, and I dream of your sound. I have seen various types of you: blue and clear, also brown and dirty. When the snow melts in the Spring your current fills the canyons and destroys. When you are in this mood, even though you behave like this, you are always in my mind and I adore you with this song. In the evenings when my mother prepares me for sleep, I remember the moon shining on you, reflecting you. I hear your sound of the deepest blue ponds in my dreams. You keep all the secrets and continue to stream, and in 1000 years this poem will be forgotten, but you, the river will still flow.

Hidden Kona

Things that are absent, gone, past. Waiting for them to return. Things that get left unsaid. Things that want to be said. Absent and hidden desires reveal themselves. Lonely domestic life can make you say and do things that are hidden. The body of domestication.

Absence

Love Soliloquy for the Cod

The Cod Replies

It's a Man's World

Monumental Kona : The Trash Goddess of Skagaströnd

We build an effigy to honour the materials of waste from human use and consumption. The consumed and wasteful body: oh how we package her with artefacts of waste! *Please note:* materials and trash (except for the veil) have been washed up and retrieved from the local shoreline in Skagaströnd.

*I lived for my art, I lived for love,
I never did harm to a living soul!
With a secret hand
I relieved as many misfortunes as I knew of.
Always with true faith, my prayer rose to the holy shrines.
Always with true faith
I gave flowers to the altar.
In the hour of grief
why, why, o Lord,
why do you reward me thus?
I gave jewels for the Madonna's mantle,
and I gave my song to the stars, to heaven,
which smiled with more beauty.
In the hour of grief
why, why, o Lord,
ah, why do you reward me thus?*

(Vissi d'Arte: from Puccini's opera Tosca)

Pou Atarau / Now Is The Hour

Departure, farewell. The packaged human body and fish combine as consumers of the world and return to the sea. The returning body. The heart longs for the return of what we know.

*Pö atarau
E moea iho nei
E haere ana
Koe ki pāmamao
Haere rā
Ka hoki mai anō
Ki i te tau
E tangi atu nei
(Maori lyrics, NZ)*

*Now is the hour,
when we must say goodbye
Soon you'll be sailing,
far across the sea.
While you're away,
Oh please remember me.
When you return,
you'll find me waiting here.*

Music/sound:

Unidentified deep sea sound recording sourced from you-tube.

Hvítárvísur Rímur: Hvítá (white) River: written by Guðmunder Böðvarsson and sung by Erlingur Jóhannesson.

Hidden Kona compositions by Marc Chesterman (NZ).

Can't Get Enough of Your Love by Barry White.

Man's World by James Brown.

Ode to Joy excerpt from Beethoven's 9th Symphony. Performed by Fritz Reiner and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Vissi d'Arte from the opera *Tosca* by Puccini. Sung by Maria Callas.

Pou Atarau (Now Is The Hour) farewell tune sung to sailors, soldiers and the dead. Sung by Kiri Te Kanawa.

You're The First, The Last, My Everything by Barry White.

Moving image projections of underwater ocean life filmed by Ryan M Bolten. Sourced on you-tube, excerpts re-edited by Kerryn.

Costumes, lights, sound, spatial and props design by Kerryn.

Operation of sound and image projections: Jihyun Kim.

Live documentation/recording: David Rusanow & Sanne Kabalt

Anonymous ideas and interests from the community that have been utilized for this performance

infinity, the infinite, something connected with the ocean, beach and sea, life force, creation, story, the air, grown up people participating in dance, materialism, happiness in its purest form, nature, something that moves and blinks, joy, spins, nudity
(well...I showed most of my flesh)

I would like to say a BIG thank-you to these people whom helped me in numerous ways so I could make Fisk Kona

Jim, Halldor, Jonni, Pétur, Hallbjörn, Hanna.

All the Nes artists for performing and being a part of completing this work.

Takk Mr Cod.

Ninette and Vicki for your continuing work for the Nes Residency programme.

And of course, thank-you to the people and community of this beautiful village, Skagaströnd.

Já Já!