

That catastrophe is a fire



(Duration: 60 minutes)

Made and performed by Tale Dolven and Gabel Eiben

Light design: Davy Deschepper

Sound design: Gabel Eiben

Costume support: Isabelle De Cannière

Text: recorded interviews and lectures from Richard Feynman

Production Tale Dolven and Gabel Eiben

Co-production BIT Teatergarasjen, Bergen; Teaterhuset Avant Garden, Trondheim;

Black Box Teater, Oslo; RAS, Sandnes

Support: Fond for Lyd og Bilde

Residencies with Workspace Brussels; Vooruit, Gent; Kaaitheater, Brussels; FringeArts, Philadelphia

Dolven and Eiben independently come from a background as performers for two of the world's most renowned theatre and dance companies: Dolven for the dance company Rosas and Eiben for the Avant garde theatre group Nature Theatre of Oklahoma. Last year they collaborated for the first time with *You're welcome*, aiming to join the two genres of theatre and dance in examining their common home: the stage. Dolven and Eiben's style is playful and unpretentious. For their new piece *That catastrophe is a fire*, they have chosen to work on scientific texts. With the help of the interviews of the charismatic physicist Richard Feynman, the subjects might not be fully understood, but their propositions mind-blowing.



"It is my task to convince you not to turn away because you don't understand it. You see, my physics students don't understand it either. That is because I don't understand it. Nobody does."

Richard Feynman, QED; The strange theory of light and matter.

A theatre performance about the wonder of everyday life.

Text is at the heart of many theatrical experiences. We would like to apply our understanding and interest in the spoken word to a new subject: scientific lectures. The way scientists talk to laymen about the magic of our daily lives is inspiring - from a matchstick igniting with fire, to plant life, to our own biochemistry. The miraculous world we live in is just that, miracles, to the untrained or uneducated. But after centuries of

scientific analysis of phenomena we now know what creates a fire, how plants grow, and even some understanding of celestial bodies and that which exist outside of our tiny planet. *That catastrophe is a fire* is a celebration of these magic events surrounding us, the miracle of which is taken for granted.

The way that scientists like Richard Feynman address colleagues as well as people with less understanding is fascinating. Their language is simple, but their subject very complicated. When someone has such niche knowledge, it can be difficult to find a common language with the uninitiated. We find resemblance in how dance and theatre shows might be perceived by an audience. Hence, this piece also reflects on the ability to communicate beyond one's own field.



“We physicists are always checking to see if there’s something the matter with the theory. That’s the game, because if there is something the matter, that’s interesting! But so far, we have found nothing wrong with the theory of quantum electrodynamics. It is, therefore, I would say, the jewel of physics - our proudest possession.”
Richard Feynman, QED; The strange theory of light and matter.

Tale Dolven

is from Stavanger, Norway. Since 2002 she has been living in Brussels. She studied at KHIO in Oslo and PARTS in Brussels. Since 2006 she has been working for Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker and Rosas, since 2009 as a freelancer in order to combine the company work with other work. She has also worked with Frank Verduyssen and TG Stan for *Nusch* and *the Tangible*, for Benjamin Vandewalle in *Birdwatching* and *Point of view*, Doris Uhlich in *More than Enough*, Charlotte Vanden Eynde in *Beginnings*, *endings* and with Kris Verdonck for *Exit*. For her performance of *Exit*, she won the Zygmunt Duczynski Award for the most outstanding artistic personality of the festival at Kontrapunkt 2014 in Szczecin, Poland. Tale has been doing smaller projects in Norway throughout the years with the support of Sven Birkeland at BIT Teatergarasjen. In 2012 she made her first production *Visibly invisible*.



Gabel Eiben

is from Codorus, Pennsylvania in the US. He has been living in New York the last 10 years, and recently moved to Brussels. Gabel has been working with Kelly Copper and Pavol

Liska for the american avant-garde theater company Nature Theater of Oklahoma since 2008 in *Life and Times Episodes 1-4 and 6-9*, *Poetics: a ballet brut*, and *No Dice*. With Nature Theater, he has also performed in and filmed many shorts, the feature length documentary *The Great Nature Theater of Oklahoma is Calling You!*, and two feature length films: *Life and Times Episodes 7&8*. He taught the theater workshop at P.A.R.T.S. in Brussels. In 2015, he premiered Jérôme Bel's *Gala* at Kunstenfestivaldesarts. He has also worked and studied with SITI Company in New York and performed in *Radio Macbeth*. He holds a BFA in acting from Shenandoah University.



That catastrophe is a fire:

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| Bastard Festival: Teaterhuset Avant Garden, Trondheim | 5.9.2015 |
| Meteor Festival: BIT teatergarasjen, Bergen | 19.10.2015 |
| Black Box Teater, Oslo | 12-13.3.2016 |
| Rotterdamse Schouwburg, Rotterdam | 7.4.2016 |

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Practicalities:

A full technical rider is available upon request. Setup is roughly 8 hours, and strike can be done in an hour. We travel light: one large suitcase, two performers, and one technician traveling from Brussels. The fee is €2500 + €1250 per performance beyond the first as well as travel, accommodation, and per diems.