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Helmi Vent: *Songs of(f) Stage*

– Abstract –

This lecture will push a performance project into the centre of attention which was developed with performers of the DanceMusicTheatre Workshop of the Mozarteum University Salzburg Salzburg and had its premiere at the opening of the 22. International Festival of Contemporary Music *Aspekte Salzburg* in May 1998: *Songs of(f) Stage*. The SpaceSoundBody Theatre, which is dedicated to Mauricio Kagel, takes in its 90-minute performance a closer look at the open and covered spaces in classically built theatres, in order to converse with the actually exiting space sounds and sound spaces with the help of its own 'equipment'. This 'equipment' consists of stationary and mobile inventory- or rather components from the stage and off-stage of the Big Studio at the Mozarteum University Salzburg: assembly catwalks, protective grilles, safety chains, profiled steel base plates, motor-controlled lifting platform hydraulic etc.

Whereas sound exploration, sound production and performance activities during the playing of music build a direct coherence with the audible and visual performance arrangement, the project distinguishes itself in the examination of spatial and temporal dimensions through the aesthetics of a cross-sectional dramaturgy as well as an acoustic simultaneity – communicated through 'screens in performance'. Playback-screens that move vertically and horizontally in inherent time let the "songs" "of" and "off" the lower and the upper stage and the gallery enter in multiple-perceptible conversations with the help of live cameras and additional playback videos. The AV- and audio edits of the *Songs of(f) Stage* finally mutate into new platforms for redraft performances at the Mozarteum University Salzburg and the University of Salzburg: a vocal performance (2004), instrumental performance (2008) and a dance performance (2010).

In combination with filmic examples from documentaries this lecture takes a wander through selected phases of the project development and project performance up to newer arrangement cycles between de-composition through image and sound and new composition.

Head of the project and of the film production: Helmi Vent