

CABULA6 (USA/AT)

THE ANGOLA PROJECT (LECTURE PERFORMANCES)

"The Angola Project belonged to the pearls of the [Impulstanz] festival....Jeremy Xido from CABULA6 shows with his Lecture Performance that just through verbal narration with image and video support, a thrilling choreography can emerge." - Helmut Ploebst, Der Standard August 2010

The Angola Project playfully straddles the worlds of performance and film-making as the audience watches a movie being constructed from fragments of film and narrative right before their eyes. Only to crumble again into disarray.

Based on Jeremy Xido's true life adventures of trying to make a feature film in Angola, THE ANGOLA PROJECT takes us on a dizzying journey through the history of colonial Portugal, the Travelogues of Burton Holmes, the films of Bruce Lee and Jim Kelly, the Detroit race riots/rebellion, Berlin



documentary film crews in Africa and the blood-thirsty mechanisms of international film finance. THE ANGOLA PROJECT is a funny and moving investigation into global events and the complex unexpected polycultural mash-up identities emerging in the 21st Century.

Jeremy Xido of CABULA6 is writing a screenplay. For a movie. The story begins under a Mulberry Tree in Lisbon, Portugal and winds its way across the ocean and along the Benguela Railway to the battered heart of the high plains of Angola - to the town of Kuito. It's a road movie. A brother and sister traveling back to the roots they never knew they had. It's going to be funny and moving and uplifting. It's going to be about being "here" and "there", about the changing face of the world where Europeans are black and Africans look Chinese. It's going to be a great movie. The only thing is, Jeremy needs 5 million dollars to get it made....

The Angola Project is part of a larger CABULA6 project series, Life on Earth, about traveling, immigration, emigration, diasporas and shifting notions of home. It is based on interviews with people Jeremy met in Lisbon, Portugal and in Angola, along the Benguela Railway - the old British rail line destroyed during the cold war now being rebuilt by Chinese construction companies.

The Angola Project is an ongoing investigation into the relationship between performance and screenplay – and discloses the mechanisms of art-making and the arts world in general. The performance, which absorbs the ever increasing film footage and develops a screenplay in front of the eyes of the audience, will be the basis for an eventual feature film. Focussing on people whose lives and imaginations travel back and forth between Portugal and Angola, Asia and Africa, The Angola Project is a funny and moving investigation into global events and the complex unexpected polycultural mash-up identities emerging in the 21st Century.

As a lecture performance, The Angola Project is a dissection of the tradition of Travel Lectures - structured around a series of ever-changing pitches for a movie. The performance focusses on the play between a quickly changing polycultural world and the often clunky frameworks we have for describing that world. It is full of digressions as the story slips off the main path only to circle back again - passing through the history of colonial Portugal, the Travelogues of Burton Holmes, the films of Bruce Lee and Jim Kelly, the Detroit race riots/rebellion, Berlin documentary film crews in Africa, and the streets of Vienna, Austria and Huambo, Angola.

NEW CREATION (2011)

PART III - China

Jeremy, on the verge of finally financing the documentary, is invited to pitch the Angola Project at the Guangzhou International Documentary Festival in Southern China to Broadcasters and Commissioners from around the world. He arrives early to take in the town, eat roasted pigeon and get over his jet lag before the big day.



While wandering the city, Jeremy runs into an old man sitting on a bench along the river who tells him a story about Zeng He, the 14th century muslim eunuch warrior said to be seven feet tall and five feet in circumference, who led seven voyages through the Indian ocean. They say he possibly circumnavigated the world with a massive fleet of 27,000 men up to 60 years before the Europeans such as Columbus and Magellan dared to set out across the ocean.

Not knowing any better, Jeremy decides to travel along the southern old Silk Road to the birthplace of Zeng He. He arrives to lake Dian, the site of neolithic settlements near where the remains of the "Yuanmou Man," dating back over 10 million years, was unearthed by railway engineers in the 1960s. The Yunnan province is home to over 25 different ethnic minorities and is a living testament to the China's polycultural history. During these travels, Jeremy gets hooked on the idea of origins. On what came before. Only slowly to come to the realization that the very notion of "origins" and "essence" is one of the great ruses of all time. As he slips further and further back in time it becomes clear that there are no clear origins, just a continual descent into ever evolving complexity, in which, just like Chinese characters, every symbol, object and story is layered with multiple simultaneous meanings. Of course, he doesn't speak Chinese. But then again, neither does anyone else along one of the oldest roads in the history of humankind - stretching from Africa to the coasts of Asia.

PART I - Lisboa (2008)

In 2008 Jeremy Xido arrives in Lisbon and is immediately mesmerized and bedazzled by the gas lamps that flicker on all over the city each night at sunset. For six weeks straight he wanders around at midnight and slowly a gauzy idea for a film begins to take shape around historical tidbits, horticultural facts, random encounters and a slew of interviews he makes with the vast array of people in a world where things are simply not what they appear to be.

PART II - Angola (2010)

As one young woman in Lisbon explains, "Europe is Lost, the future is Angola," and Xido wants to see for himself. So in September 2009 he makes the trip to Angola to travel along the Benguela Railway and write his film script. The world proves to be way more complex and surprising than anything he could have ever imagined. Part 2 of The Angola Project is structured around a constantly evolving pitch for a feature film as the lived complexities of this World are squeezed through the brutal and unforgiving logic of international film finance.

Concept: Jeremy Xido_Direction: Claudia Heu and Igor Dobricic_Performance: Jeremy Xido_Dramaturgy: Igor Dobricic_Film: Jeremy Xido, James Barnard_Company Manager: Marlies Pucher_Support from: Stadt Salzburg, Medina Press (Angola), Transforma (Portugal)_ Parts I and II Premiered_Maria Matos Theater, Impulstanz Festival 2010, Performance Matters (London, ArtsAdmin Toynbee Studios) 2010 and Transforma, Torres Vedras, Portugal

ABOUT CABULA6 (A/USA)

CABULA6 was voted company of the year 2009 in Ballettanz Magazine and received the Outstanding Artists Award 2010 from the Austrian Ministry of Arts (bmukk). Led by artistic co-Directors, Claudia Heu and Jeremy Xido, CABULA6 has established itself as an internationally renown Performance and Film company. We have presented work around Europe, the United States and South America, Africa and Asia. Our work overwhelmingly focuses on the border between reality and fiction and the uneasy dialogue between a person's private sense of identity and its dynamic reception in a broader social context. We search out non-traditional performance spaces that make it possible to walk this line between what is "real" and what is constructed and which can bring audience members face to face with their assumptions and expectations about who they are. Our work ranges from stage pieces, to site-specific works, to films, to projects of social intervention. We are dedicated to principles of delight, humor, investigation and jolts of adrenalin. We love to play.

<http://cabula6.com>

JEREMY XIDO (A/USA)

Originally from Detroit, Jeremy Xido graduated cum laude in Painting and Comparative Literature from Columbia University in New York and trained at the Actor's Studio. He has been the artistic co-director of the performance and film company CABULA6 since 2003, having produced and presented stage and film work all over the world. CABULA6 was voted "company of the year 2009" by Europe's most prestigious performance magazine, Ballettanz. In 2006 he directed the six part CRIME EUROPE series and in 2007 the documentary MA-CONDO about a refugee settlement on the outskirts of Vienna, as well as several critically acclaimed short fiction films. He is known as a performance artist with a unique artistic voice and approach to stage and film, blending emotionally gripping personal stories with the larger social contexts within which they emerge. Working as a dancer, actor and filmmaker, he has performed and presented work around the world on stage, TV and in Cinema.

CLAUDIA HEU (A)

is a freelance artist and performer.

In 1997 she founded onnotheater, which mainly focused on the shifts and the boundaries in theatre, the research on the borders between reality and fiction and the shifting and deconstruction of the separation between the audience and the performers. Since 2003 she is co-director of CABULA6 together with Jeremy Xido. The Company has been showing their work in Europe, South America, China, Africa and the United States. Claudia Heu is working in public space and on artistic interventions, a.o. in the Favelas of São Paulo, in hospitals, shopping malls and prisons. She has recently begun a new project focusing on post-war conflict zones. In addition to her work as an artist, she teaches at such performance institutions as SEAD (Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance), Conservatorium Linz, Ernst Busch Schule in Berlin, NYU experimental performance wing in New York City

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