

VENEZIA 31.05 — 15.06.2025

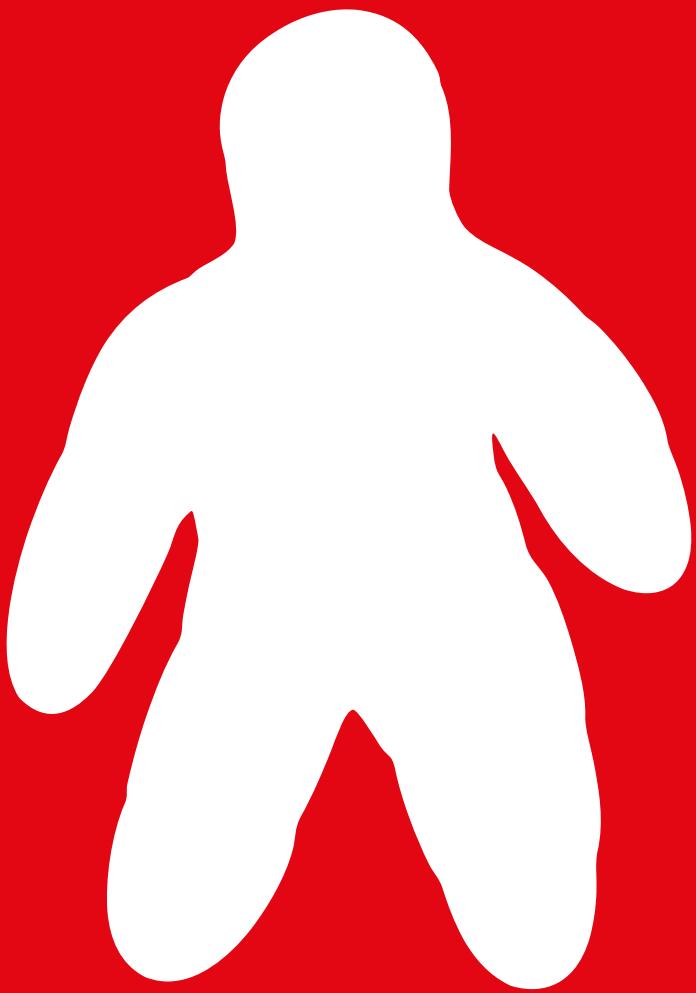
Willem Dafoe
Direttore Artistico | Artistic Director

BIENNALE | TEATRO

BIENNALE



**THEATRE
IS BODY
BODY
IS POETRY**



La Biennale di Venezia
Arte
Architettura
Cinema
Danza
Musica
Teatro
Archivio Storico

Simonetta Solder / Willem Dafoe

Circa un anno fa, sono stato invitato nel loft di Richard Foreman a registrare un testo. Foreman avrà avuto sei cento cartoline con frasi scritte a mano da lui: sono state mischiate come un mazzo di carte e poi distribuite egualmente tra di noi. Foreman stava su una sedia a rotelle e io ero seduto su un divano di fronte a lui. Abbiamo letto le frasi ad alta voce, alternandoci, una cartolina alla volta. Poi le abbiamo meschiate di nuovo e abbiamo ripetuto la lettura, ma ovviamente la sequenza era diversa.

Foreman a volte scriveva i suoi testi vivendo la normalità della vita, con una penna che teneva appesa al collo. Quando gli veniva un pensiero o vedeva qualcosa di interessante... anche solo un frammento, lo scriveva. Poi prendeva tutte queste frasi e componeva un testo, senza personaggi né un'idea di messa in scena. Erano parole, frammenti messi insieme.

Durante le prove, distribuiva delle battute ad attrici e attori in modo arbitrario, senza un'intenzione o una logica precise. Da quella casualità, nascevano le scene dello spettacolo. Le parole erano sostenute da azioni, gesti, coreografie, ma l'arbitrarietà era sempre presente. Spesso ci mostrava dei movimenti da imitare: devo dire che era un ottimo danzatore, nonostante il fisico tutt'altro che atletico. Questo esperimento vuol essere una riflessione sul pensiero e sull'approccio di Richard ai suoi testi. Con delle copie di quelle cartoline, io e Simonetta Solder replicheremo le operazioni di quelle ore trascorse nel loft. Certo, non una replica esatta: l'ordine delle cartoline sarà diverso.

Questo spettacolo non ha una regia. Due performer, due sedie, e le frasi di Richard scritte su cartoline da 7x12 centimetri.

NOTE di Willem Dafoe NOTES by Willem Dafoe

About a year ago I was invited to Richard Foreman's loft to do a recording of some text. He had maybe six hundred index cards with phrases on them that he had handwritten. The cards were shuffled like a deck of playing cards and then divided equally between us. He was in a wheelchair, and I sat across from him in a sofa. We read the phrases out loud alternating between us—a card at a time. We shuffled the cards and then repeated the reading – though the sequence was obviously different.

Foreman has sometimes made his texts by walking through his daily life with a pen on a lanyard around his neck. When he'd have a thought or he would see something that interested him... just a fragment, he would write it down. Then he would accumulate all these phrases and put them in a text. The text would have no character designation, it would have no idea of a *mise-en-scene*. It was words. It was fragments brought together.

In rehearsal, he would arbitrarily give lines of text to the actors without specific logic or intention, and out of that randomness, scenes would take shape. He would support the text with actions, gestures, and dances, but still, that arbitrariness was always there. Often, he would demonstrate movements for us to copy—I must add, he was a beautiful dancer which surprised me given his less than athletic physique.

This experiment is meant as a meditation on Richard's mind and approach to his texts. Simonetta Solder and I will take copies of those index cards and we will replicate what Richard and I did in his loft. Of course, not exactly, because the order of the cards will be different. There is no director for this piece. Two performers. Two Chairs. Richard's phrases written on index cards.

NO TITLE (An Experiment)

(ca. / approx. 50' – 2025)

06.06.2025 H 17.00
06.06.2025 H 21.00
07.06.2025 H 17.00
07.06.2025 H 19.00

Arsenale, Tese dei Soppalchi

Prima assoluta / World premiere

Parole di / Words by
Richard Foreman

Con / With
Simonetta Solder e / and Willem Dafoe

Traduzione a cura di / Translation by
Matilde Vigna

Produzione / Production
La Biennale di Venezia

NO TITLE (An Experiment)

PRESENTAZIONE OUTLINE

No Title is an undated text handwritten on a series of 640 3x5 inch notecards by Richard Foreman. Unable to say when he wrote them, Foreman declared that the cards are meant to be spoken aloud in any order either by one performer or by two or more performers who split the deck. The cards were discovered stored in a tin at his home in 2021.

The notecards used by Willem Dafoe and Simonetta Solder during the performing experiment are copies of the original ones.