

KAAI
THEATER

THE VACUUM CLEANER
Mental

**22>24/02 – 19:00 and 22&24/02/2018 – 21:00 • Kaaistudio's
theatre • 55 min. • in English**

nl/ De Metropolitan Police noemt hem een extremist. Volgens de Britse gezondheidszorg is hij schizofreen, bipolair en heeft hij borderline. Hijzelf verkiest de term Mental. Na 14 jaar als outlaw en psychiatrische patiënt doorgebracht te hebben, nodigt the vacuum cleaner je uit in zijn slaapkamer om te luisteren naar zijn levensverhaal. Vertrekpunt zijn talloze dokters- en politiedossiers en rechterlijke bevelen waar hij met behulp van de privacywetgeving de hand op wist te leggen.

- De Britse performancekunstenaar James Leadbitter – aka the vacuum cleaner – maakt one man shows, installaties en films die op tegelijk provocatieve en subtiele wijze de taboes rond mentaal welzijn aankaarten. Hij richtte samen met John Jordan The Laboratory of Insurrectionary Imagination op, dat op de affiche stond van Burning Ice #8. De afgelopen jaren maakte hij werk voor o.a. Tate Modern, Wellcome Collection, Nottingham Contemporary, BBC4, Channel 4 en Arte. Zijn theaterwerk was inmiddels te zien op een groot aantal Europese festivals en podia.

fr/ La police fédérale britannique le qualifie « d'extrémiste du cru », les Services de Santé de « très dérangé » et souffrant de trouble de la personnalité borderline. Après avoir passé 14 ans en tant que hors-la-loi et patient psychiatrique, vacuum cleaner nous invite dans sa chambre à coucher pour écouter l'histoire de sa vie. Celle-ci évoque des thèmes lourds, la honte et le tabou, mais il le présente de manière si attachante et avec tant d'humour salutaire que ça ne peut laisser personne insensible.

- L'artiste britannique de la performance James Leadbitter – alias the vacuum cleaner – crée des seuls en scène, des installations et des films qui abordent tous les tabous autour de la santé mentale de manière à la fois provocatrice et subtile. Avec John Jordan, il a fondé The Laboratory of Insurrectionary Imagination qu'on a pu voir lors de Burning Ice #8. Ces dernières années, il a réalisé des œuvres pour, entre autres, Tate Modern, Wellcome Collection, Nottingham Contemporary, BBC4, Channel 4 et Arte. Son œuvre théâtrale était entre-temps l'hôte de grandes scènes et de festivals majeurs en Europe.

en/ The Metropolitan Police calls him a Domestic Extremist. The National Health Service has labelled him 'highly disturbed' and labelled him with Borderline Personality Disorder. 'A real and present threat to the safe running of our lawful business' is how E.ON described him at the Royal Courts of Justice. He prefers the term Mental. After spending 14 years as an outlaw and in-patient, artist and activist the vacuum cleaner shares an autobiographical performance told through his psychiatric records, police intelligence files and corporate injunctions collected through the UK's Data Protection Act.

- The British artist and activist the vacuum cleaner makes large scale interventions, 'one man shows', installations and films that subtly and provocatively address taboo issues. Over the past few years he has created productions for Tate Modern, Wellcome Collection, Nottingham Contemporary, BBC4, Channel 4 and Arte, among others. His work has been presented at numerous European festivals and theatres.

Mental contains material that some people may find very challenging and/or unsettling, we hope it can be presented in an environment where we can all be considerate of each other and our differences. If during or after the performance you find yourself needing support, please don't suffer in silence. Either speak to a member of staff, or alternatively there is a list of online resources and support services at the bottom of this sheet. Also this piece contains highly sensitive information so we kindly ask you to refrain from taking pictures or recording the performance.

Track Listing

Wake Up Everybody (Psychemagik Edit) – Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes

Love Is The Message (Tom Moulton Remix) - M.F.S.B.

Beginning Of The Heartbreak/Don't, Don't - Love Of Life Orchestra

Hang Together (Re-Edit of Odyssey) - Keep Schtum

Roll River Roll – Richard Hawley

You Know How To Love Me - Phyllis Hyman

I Was Born This Way (Instrumental) – Carl Bean

Jingo – Candido

Let's Get Started – Voyage

Resources and Support

Don't be afraid to talk to someone about their mental illness. 1 in 4 people will experience a mental health condition in any given year.

Rethink Mental Illness – Leading UK charity for severe mental illness. www.rethink.org.

The Icarus Project – US-based online community for navigating the space between brilliance and madness.

www.theicarusproject.net.

Suicidal?

Read This First - www.metanoia.org/suicide

UVC Brugmann (A crisis centre, Brussels)

<http://www.chu-brugmann.be/nl/med/psy/cris.asp>

+32 (0)2 477.21.11

Dr. Guislain (Crisis and long term support.)

<http://www.guislain.be/zorg-op-maat/psychosenzorg/>

+32 (0)9 216 33 11

Erik Thys, the vacuum cleaner, Hannah Hull & Inne Goris
On creativity, Psychiatric Vulnerability, and Madlove

Kaaistudio's • 23/02 • 20:30 • in English

Creativity appears to be a typically human talent, even a feature that defines humanity. But not all human beings are equally creative. Who are the ones with 'big C' creativity? What is at the core of creative thinking? Could it be that creative sensibility and psychiatric vulnerability are two sides of the same medal? That fruitful minds are also fragile minds? These questions are explored during a debate with psychiatrist Erik Thys, the vacuum cleaner and Hannah Hull (discussing their *MadLove*-project) and director Inne Goris (presenting *Huis*, last week). The evening starts with a keynote lecture by Erik Thys based on scientific evidence, musings about society and culture, and many examples.

- Psychiatrist Erik Thys is a psychiatrist affiliated with the UPC KU Leuven and PSC St.-Alexius in Elsene. He is specialized in psychosis, creativity and stigma, and is the director of the non-profit KAOS, which develops artistic projects with a link to psychiatry.

credits

created and performed by the vacuum cleaner | **additional direction** Kim Noble | **produced by** Hannah Hull, Amy Hicks | **designed by** Sophie Nathan | **originally developed with** Tania El Khoury | **touring produced by** Amy Hicks | **thanks to** Lily Kember, Phoebe Davis, Chris Collins, Gill Lloyd, Debbie Person, Sam Trotman, Chris Atkins, Andrea Heath, Franko B, Nic Green, Psychemagik, Keep Schtum, Person X from the Information Commissioners Office | **support** Arts Council England, Lush Charity Pot, Artsadmin, In Between Time

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