



Perplexity on World Night: Photo: M. Korbel

## The end of the world at the family table: humanity, all too human in the quasi- apocalyptic performance "Fin de Siècle"

12. Mai 2023 – Fabian Lutz

They move cautiously through the space, placing under their feet building blocks pile up as if the floor were made of lava. At some point, a figure dares to step onto the ground - and it bears.

When is the end time, actually? Perhaps when everything is in ruins? When nobody gets along with anyone anymore? When there is only destruction? When the young grab the old by the scruff of their necks? When the old shoot the young? When there is war? So many questions, surely a kaleidoscope that unfolds in the full-length performance 'Fin de Siècle' by the company LaPerformance, operating between the realms of dance, theater, and visual arts (Concept/Direction: Julie Jaffrennou). At the

beginning of the evening, the stage, still brightly illuminated through the windows of the E-Werk, lies full of raw material (Stage Design: Sculptor Clemens Botho Goldbach). Building blocks pile up to form a hill on which the nine figures of the piece dwell: adults, youths, children. They move cautiously through the space, layering building blocks under their feet as if the floor were made of lava. At some point, a figure dares to take a step onto the ground - and it bears.

From then on, construction takes place in various locations in the end-time setting, individual groups form and mirror each other in physical dialogues. The big clashes take place in the second half, when things get loud, a young adult plays metal on the guitar - or Beethoven. The adults and children scatter apart, dance, play, seemingly attempting to transcend generational boundaries, yet falling back into classical turf wars. Eventually, the men don boxing gloves and are allowed to practice their blows bare-chested. Will masculinity ever come to an end?

On the world eve, hardly any words are spoken, and if they are, they are in different languages, suggesting a kind of apocalyptic Babylon. Eventually, however, everyone sits together at the family table, built from the initial building materials. They all laugh, play with balloons, and then Beethoven resounds before the lights go out. Does pathos save us in the end? The ridiculous yet touching human cohesion? The "ritornello of humanity" that Cie LaPerformance attempts in their carefully researched generational study is shrill, tender, and turns a twisted world upside down once again - providing the appropriate perspective to things. A resounding applause at the end fills the air for the speaking, screaming bodies of this playful ensemble.