



Eleanor Bauer
& Chris Peck/GoodMove & Ictus

MEYOUCYCLE

6/12/2017 – 20:30 • Kaaitheater
dance/music • 1h45 • in English (subtitles in French & Dutch)

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MEYOUCYCLE

nl/ In de nabije toekomst trekt een groep poëtische terroristen en emotionele hackers zich terug in het duistere woud van *the dark web*. Onder een gigantische maan ontpopt *Meyoucycle* zich als een sciencefiction-concert over doodgewone emoties in dit tijdperk van hyperkapitalisme en technologische vooruitgang.

Meyoucycle klinkt als 'musical' met een vreemd accent. Samen met componist Chris Peck en vier Ictus-muzikanten gooit Bauer alle musical-ingredienten in de mengmachine, met een volslagen nieuw, hybride genre als resultaat. Het stuk gaat over mij en jou en alles wat daartussenin ligt. Een mij-jij-cyclus, inderdaad.

- De Amerikaanse Eleanor Bauer studeerde dans in New York en aan PARTS. Als artist-in-residence in het Kaaitheater (2013-2016) presenteerde ze o.a. *Midday and Eternity*, deze *Meyoucycle* (tijdens het Kunstenfestivaldesarts 2016), en de 'talk show, variety show, shit show' *Bauer Hour*. Samen met Chris Peck werkte ze al eens samen met het muziekensemble Ictus voor de concertreeks *This is not a Popsong*.

fr/ Dans un futur proche, un groupe de terroristes poétiques et de pirates informatiques émotifs se retirent dans la forêt obscure du *dark web*. Sous une lune gigantesque, *Meyoucycle* se révèle un concert de science-fiction autour d'émotions simples en ces temps d'hyper-capitalisme et de progrès technique.

Meyoucycle sonne comme *musical* prononcé avec un drôle d'accent. Avec le compositeur Chris Peck et quatre musiciens d'Ictus, Bauer passe tous les ingrédients musicaux au mélangeur et obtient un résultat entièrement nouveau d'un genre hybride. La pièce traite de moi, de toi et de tout ce qu'il y a entre les deux. Un cycle moi-toi !

- L'Américaine Eleanor Bauer a étudié à New York et à PARTS. En tant qu'artiste en résidence au Kaaitheater (2013-2016), elle a présenté, entre autres, *Midday and Eternity*, ce *Meyoucycle* (lors du Kunstenfestivaldesarts 2016), et le *talk-variety-shit show, Bauer Hour*. Elle a déjà travaillé avec Chris Peck et avec l'ensemble musical Ictus pour la série de concerts *This is not a Popsong*.

en/ In the near future, a group of poetic terrorists and emotional hackers withdraw to the sinister forest of the *dark web*. Under an enormous moon, *Meyoucycle* manifests itself as a science fiction concert about ordinary emotions in this age of hyper capitalism and technological advances.

Meyoucycle sounds like 'musical' pronounced in a strange accent. Along with composer Chris Peck and four Ictus musicians, Bauer blends together all the ingredients for a musical, producing a completely new, hybrid genre. The piece is about you and me and everything in between. That's right, a me-you cycle.

- American artist Eleanor Bauer studied dance in New York and at PARTS. As an artist-in-residence at the Kaaitheater (2013-2016), she presented, among others, *Midday and Eternity*, this *Meyoucycle* (at the Kunstenfestivaldesarts 2016), and the 'talk show, variety show, shit show' *Bauer Hour*. She and Chris Peck have collaborated with the music ensemble Ictus previously, for the concert series *This is not a Popsong*.

EXPRESSION IN THE AGE OF HYPER-CAPITALISM AND TECHNOLOGICAL MEDIATION

***Meyoucycle* (me-you-cycle) is a political science fiction fantasy concert musical about expression in the age of hyper-capitalism and technological mediation. Personal ads and old-school letters, chat-bots, tweets, poetic terrorism, untameable rants, sound, image, song and dance collide in a rumination on contemporary and near-future life and the intense forces and interfaces that shape it.**

The title 'Meyoucycle' is a near homonym for "musical," as if pronounced with a strange accent, which is to say that *Meyoucycle* creates something foreign to what can be identified as a musical, but with familiar ingredients. The piece combines music, dance, and text; and it seems to tell a story: in the near future, a group of poetic terrorists and emotional hackers have all dropped into anonymity. They dwell in the Dark – the dark web, the dark woods, the unknowns, the subconscious, the intuitive shadow of hidden knowledges. They escape the all-pervasive system of communications media that expropriates expressions between people and transforms it into profit. In order to maintain true freedom of expression and prevent that others profit from their every move, they choose to lose their identity and transform themselves constantly. Sliding through different genres of performance and music, inhabiting different forms of speech and physical appearance, they generate a continually shifting horizon of possible meanings, constantly escaping fixity.

Meyoucycle is a song-cycle written in collaboration between choreographer/performer Eleanor Bauer and musician/composer Chris Peck. Bauer and Peck have been working together since 2003, and at a distance since 2004. They have thus incorporated the realities of absence, distance, and technological mediation within their collaboration as a way to open up spaces of interpretation and strategies of composition. Through a diversity of new and old methods of scoring and generating material with others, Peck and Bauer are interested in sharing and extending this play to the various interrelations between songwriter, musician, composer, choreographer, performer, and audience. Processing various source-materials from magazine articles to dreams, incorporating the work of guest songwriters, folding in a polyphony of cut-up reference quotes in each monologue, developing the choreography with the performers and arranging the music in dialogue with Ictus ensemble, the material itself is a churning cycle of me's and you's. As a "me-you-cycle," the performance ultimately acknowledges that all understandings in the theater and otherwise are created somewhere between all those present, visibly and invisibly.

Bauer and Peck's focus on songwriting comes from an interest in the tension between the poetics of language and the affective qualities of music. Thinking about the song as opposed to other kinds of musical composition as a relatively short and isolated piece often written to communicate a particular feeling, idea, or agenda, *Meyoucycle* emphasizes this direct communication style and its relationship to feeling and intuition as a tool for expressing both explicit and implicit, overt and subverted messages.

With *Meyoucycle*, Eleanor Bauer continues her search for ways in a shared process to create space for the unnameable insights that resonate in the deep undercurrents connecting the absolutely personal and non-rational to shared social experience. The subjective and yet common palette of experiential knowledge constituted by emotion and how it is communicated has been a

cornerstone of the creation process of *Meyoucycle*. Reflecting on and imagining the social and cultural subjects and communities produced by contemporary and future tools and technologies within hyper-capitalist acceleration, the characters of *Meyoucycle* point to the conflicts and paradoxes between sharing and surveillance, connection and atomisation, networking and narcissism, underlining communication as a basic human faculty constantly under threat of expropriation and manipulation in the information age, where social media are so profoundly shaping the social sphere. Questioning what we share and how we share it, what we "save" and where we store it, *Meyoucycle* asks how we can avoid the seemingly inevitable exploitation of our private and public lives, personal and psychic capacities, by switching the cables, diving into the dark, swerving with the times.

credits

So Much To Do (monologue) words: Bauer w/ Halaby | **So Much To Do** music/words: Peck, arrangement: Peck w/ performers, choreography: Bauer | **Dark Dark Dark** words: Bauer/T. S. Eliot, *Four Quartets*, "East Coker," Part III, music/arrangement: Bauer/Peck, choreography: ("Here is what I have done") Bauer, after email from Ryan Seaton | **Into the Dark / Dark Letters (monologues)** words: Bauer, music/arrangement: ("Cybernetic Meadow") Peck w/ performers, vocal treatment: Fostier | **Arches** music/words: Bauer w/ Peck, arrangement: Peck w/ performers, choreography: ("Plutchik") Hákonardóttir w/ Bauer | **A New Factory** music/words: Peck, arrangement: Peck/Bauer/performers, choreography: Santisteva/Peck/Schaltin/Bauer | **Say It** music/words: Peck, choreography: ("Plutchik") Santisteva w/ Bauer, ("Emo Cannon" sign rhymes for anger, fear, and grief) Bauer w/Hákonardóttir & Santisteva | **Endurance** words: Bauer w/ Yogi Tea[®] Inspirations & I Ching Online.NET, music: Bauer w/ Peck, arrangement: Peck/performers, choreography: Bauer/Hákonardóttir | **The Less You Own (monologue)** words: Bauer w/ quotations from Hakim Bey, *CHAOS, THE BROADSHEETS OF ONTOLOGICAL ANARCHISM*, and Hélène Cixous, *The Laugh of the Medusa*, music: ("Traveller's Heart") Peck, arrangement: Bauer, performers | **Monster's Heart (instrumental)** music: Rouger | **Monster** music: Gérald Kurdian, arrangement: Ictus, choreography: Bauer w/Hákonardóttir/Halaby/Santisteva | **Garbage** music: Peck, words: Peck w/ Bauer & craigslist "missed connections", arrangement: Peck/Bauer/performers, choreography: Bauer/performers | **Still Drift** words: Bauer, music/vocal treatment: Peck | **Nattering Machine (dialogue)** words: Bauer w/ A.L.I.C.E. (Artificial Linguistic Internet Computer Entity) & Peck, music: Peck, choreography: ("Plutchik") Hákonardóttir/Santisteva w/Bauer | **Several Days Later** music & words: Peck w/ Hákonardóttir, choreography: ("Plutchik") Halaby w/ Bauer, (Backup dance) Bauer/Hákonardóttir/Santisteva | **Everest is Everest** music: Peck, words: Peck w/ Bauer, choreography: Bastys/Bauer/Halaby | **More Shaker** music: Peck | **Sponge** music: Peck, words: Peck w/ Bauer/Hákonardóttir/Santisteva, choreography: Bauer/Hákonardóttir/Santisteva | **Game of Chance** music: Peck, words: Peck w/ Bauer/Hákonardóttir/Santisteva, choreography: Bauer | **Meteorite** music: Peck, choreography: Bauer w/ performers | **Aprés Virginia (monologue)** words: Bauer, French translation: Cedric Andrieux, vocal treatment: Fostier | **In The End** music/words: Bauer/Peck