

# OCW PRE-PROGRAMME

pre-reference to the event crimpp\_30 in ocw, stage for small scale events, rotterdam

on saturday evening 24 and sunday evening 25 november 2018, stage ocw presents the thirtieth crimpp episode, that is dedicated exclusively to the work of the abkhazian artist **arkhip labakhua**

born in 1973, arkhip (pseudonym: *sipa*), is one of the leading visual artists, performers and designers of abkhazia. \_he lives and works in the capital sukhum. \_he studied fine arts in tbilisi and moscow and is active in the field of sculpture, design, scenography and photography. \_in 1999 he founded his one man marionette theater *hammock*.

*sipa* already performed at stage ocw in september 2018. \_in his 180 cm. tall, 120 cm. wide and 180 cm. deep mobile marionette theater, that fits in a a-1 sized drawing storage folder, he played his marionette show *insomnia*: a family story that addresses the highly topical and universal subject of 'homeland'. \_after the intermission he recited a selection of his autobiographic stories.

this time, the program features his marionette show *red actor*, for which he received the **grand prix** of the gent *international puppetbuskersfestival* in 2000. \_it's a 22 minute performance based on the music of **prokofiev**, **stravinsky** and **bach** on words by **john donne** (1572-1631):

## THE DISSOLUTION

*shee's dead; and all which die to their first elements resolve; and wee were mutuall elements to us, and made of one another.*

*my body then doth hers involve, and those things whereof I consist, hereby in me abundant grow, and burdenous, and nourish not, but smother.*

*my fire of passion, sighes of ayre, water of teares, and earthly sad despair, which my materialls bee, (but ne'r worne out by loves securitie), shee, to my losse, doth by her death repaire.*

*and I might live long wretched so, but that my fire doth with my fuell grow.*

*now, as those active kings whose foraine conquest treasure brings, receive more, and spend more, and soonest breake: this (which I am amazed that I can speak) this death, hath with my store, my use increas'd, and so my soule, more earnestly releas'd, will outstrip hers; as bullets flowen before a latter bullet may o'ertake, the powder being more.*

after the intermission *sipa* will again recite a selection of his autobiographic stories with intriguing titles like *flugtag* or *irakli*. \_all contributions are in english.

since 2012, a number of *sipa's* sculptures have been erected on the black sea-front in sukhum. \_one sculpture was installed close to the *penguin café* which is a hotspot for the city's residents. \_its title: *penguin philosopher*.

*sipa*: 'i wanted to represent a traveler who has never been here before. \_the result is a solid sculptural form which, from a distance, resembles a human figure. \_this penguin is a foreigner who came to our town and feels at home here. \_he is standing at a small table and jots something down.' \_on the marble plaque that lies in front of the penguin, the following words are inscribed: *life is not a possession to be defended, but a gift that should be shared with other people*. \_*sipa* hopes that **william faulkner's** phrase will sink into the soul of all who read it for the first time, and will urge those, to whom it has become familiar, to think about it again.

*sipa* plays the leading role in the documentary *little man, sleeping time and the troubadour* directed by the rotterdam filmmaker **ineke smits**. \_in 2017-'18 she followed the artist on his theater tour through

abkhazia. \_the film, a coproduction of the *IKON/EO*, the *filmkitchen* and the belgian *inti-film* will be released in the course of 2019

brief overview of *sipa's* theatrical activities:

1999  
founding of the marionette theater *hammock*

*evil exorcism* / 3' 5" /  
performance with medieval music from europe

*i don't care anymore* / 2'5" /  
performance with unknown music

2000-'03  
*red actor* / 22' / marionette show on music of **prokofiev**, **stravinsky** and **bach** / text: **john donne's the dissolution**. \_in 2000, the jury of the gent *international puppetbuskersfestival* awarded *red actor* with the **grand prix**

2010-'15  
*the smell of shadow* / 27' / marionette show on music of **bach** with indian flute accompaniment by **carlos nakai**

2017-'18  
*insomnia* / 24' / marionette show based on the story by **sipa labakhua** & **ineke smits** / sound design - **jeroen stout** / composition - **jan-bas bollen** / actor-manipulator: **sipa labakhua**

an extensive (abkhazian?) documentary from 2013 about *sipa* and his work is available on: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=1488&v=9omcY80hd1M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1488&v=9omcY80hd1M)

*sipa's* own website is located on: <http://sipa.su/>

please t.o.p. >>

OWN CONTRIBUTION | the admission for ocw evenings is free. \_yet visitors are requested to donate whatever amount they think appropriate for attending the performances afterwards. \_the participating artist receives the collected sum (incrowd funding), so be generous with your donation

OCW PROFILE | ocw is a rotterdam non-subsidized stage, initiated by the visual artist arnold schalks. \_'small scale' and 'hospitality' are the catch-words for the activities of ocw. \_the objective of ocw is to create the conditions for crossdisciplinary connections by the combined presentations of visual arts, dance, music, literature, theater and cinema, offering a lot of room for the experiment

technical facilities and design  
crimmp: stage ocw / arnold schalks

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