

## Kristóf Kelemen

### Observers

opened: 2018

in Hungarian with English surtitles (100')

**29 November 2019, 12.30pm**

**Trafó House of Contemporary Art**

*'Kristóf Kelemen, one of the most exciting theatre makers of the young generation, deals, yet again, with systemic phenomena in this, his latest production. Observers is based on a true story. By creating an atmosphere of permanent fear and lies, it paints a picture of the systemic culture of blackmailing, that was prevalent within Hungary's State Security during the 1960s. It permeated and transcended all levels of civilian and private spheres. The tiny stage of the performance is decorated with a period, retro set design that is free from nostalgia. I would say it is almost like a museum, were it not to lack the calming feeling that all this belongs to the past. There has been no public settlement of the communist informers' issue in Hungary since the change of regime. Its legacy permeates even the current social functioning. The performance's dramaturgy embeds the story in this shared knowledge, as well as in the position of theatrical viewing that observes the role-play that a dictatorship forces upon people. From a broader perspective, in a modern social context that is based on observation and control. Information always comes at a price, only the way it is obtained changes. As one of the characters, Lieutenant Horváth, says: "One day, there'll be a camera on every street corner and citizens will voluntarily pass on all their data to us. Until then, we will take them away by force.'* **Anikó VARGA, curator**

#### CREDITS

**Performed by** Dániel BAKI, Péter JANKOVICS, Bettina JÓZSA, Tamás RÉTFALVI, Iringó RÉTI

**Dramaturg:** Tamás TURAI

**Visuals and stage design:** Zita SCHNÁBEL

**Costumes assistant:** Leticia BARTOS

**Music:** Péter MÁRTON (Prell)

**Video:** Balázs VIRÁG

**Research archive video materials:** Orsolya BARNA

**Technical manager:** Ákos LENGYEL

**Assistant to the director:** Anita TOTOBÉ, Katinka BORDÁS

**Director:** Kristóf KELEMEN

**Kristóf Kelemen** is a young director and playwright based in Budapest.

He graduated as a dramaturge in 2015 at the University of Theatre and Film Arts, where he is currently a PhD student. He is considered one of the unique voices of his generation, casting an inquisitive eye on the workings of Hungarian society.

He is a dramaturge at the Radnóti Miklós Theatre whilst also working on his own and collective independent projects.

Kelemen's documentary theatre production, **While You Are Reading This Title, We Are Talking About You**, was an immediate success and was presented at Hungarian and international festivals, including Temps D'Image Festival in Cluj and TESZT Festival in Timisoara. The show focused on his university and the life and circumstances of freshly graduated young actors.

**Hungarian Acacia**, a documentary lecture performance, co-directed with Bence György Pálinkás received critical acclaim as well. It was part of dunaPart4, and invitations were made to: Off Europa Festival, Theaterfestival Basel, BOZAR, SPIELART, Mousonturm and Divadelna Nitra, amongst others. *Observers*, that Kelemen wrote and directed, was awarded the Hungarian Contemporary Drama Prize and was chosen Best New Hungarian Drama and Best Independent Production at the 2019 Hungarian Theatre Critics' Award.

#### CONTACT

Judit BÖRÖCZ

boroczjudit@gmail.com

+36.20.352.3080

W: kristofkelemen1990.tumblr.com



photo: Krisztina CSÁNYI

#### TOURS & FESTIVALS ABROAD

Palm Off Fest, Prague, 2019.

Fast Forward, Dresden, 2019.

#### BASIC TECHNICAL INFO

stage: small/medium

travelling crew: 11

#### CO-PRODUCERS

Trafó House of Contemporary Arts, Orlai Productions, FÜGE Productions

#### SUPPORTERS

National Cultural Fund, Ministry of Human Capacities, Jurányi Incubator House, the Municipality of Budapest, Budapest City Branding Nonprofit Ltd., Staféta